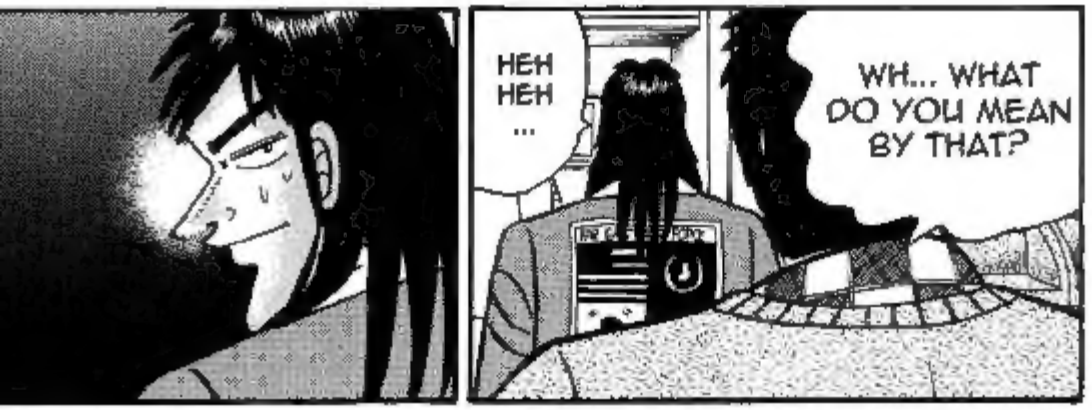


I'VE FOUND THE ULTIMATE STRATEGY!!

I'M NOT TRYING TO CONFUSE YOU.
I'M TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING VERY SIMPLE.
SORRY, SORRY. IT DOES MAKE IT A BIT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHEN I SAY IT LIKE SOME KINDA RIDDLE.
MY BAD.
HEH HEH ...
I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ...

第19話「独占」

CHAPTER 19 "MONOPOLY"

THE DECIDING FACTOR OF THIS GAME...

IS VERY SIMPLE.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXTREME EXAMPLE.

I THINK I ALMOST UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT NOT QUITE...

HAHH ...?

TRANSLATED BY JSOG

CLEANED BY BIGGUMS

TYPESETTING BY BIGGUMS

QC BY KAZUHIKO

THE CARDS DETERMINE THE WINNER AND THE LOSER, AND THEN A STAR CHANGES HANDS.

IT'S THE CARDS, I SAID!

HAH ...?

THE DECIDING FACTOR IS THE CARDS!

OKAY ...

ASSUME WE HAD GATHERED A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF ROCKS TO BEAT SCISSORS.

FROM QUITE A WHILE BACK...

WHAT IF WE HAD BEEN COLLECTING CARDS...

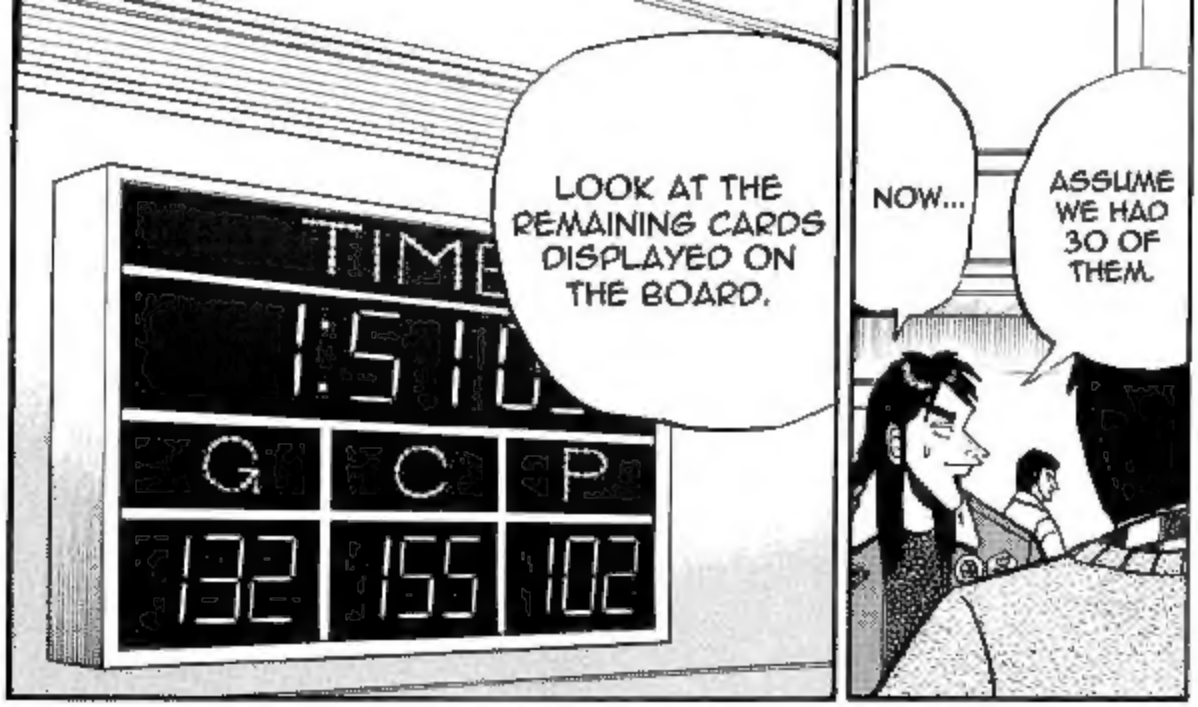
AND HAD MANAGED TO COLLECT QUITE A FEW OF THEM.

WE JUST NEED TO CONTROL THOSE CARDS THAT ARE AT THE BASE OF VICTORY.

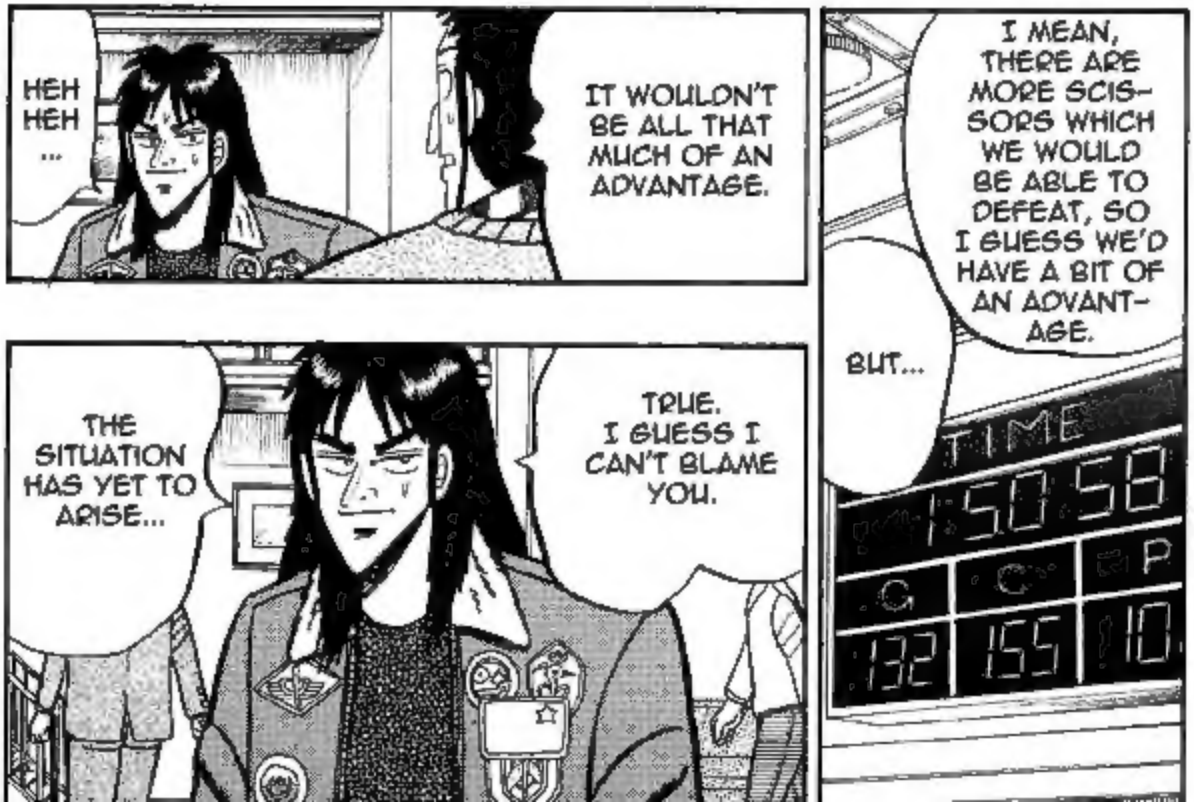
SO IF WE WANT TO WIN...

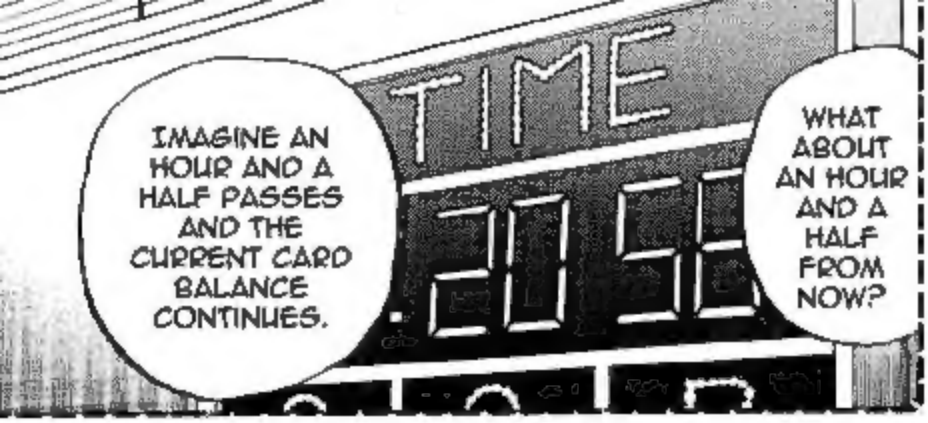
THAT RESULT IS WHAT LEAVES US EITHER REJOICING OR CURSING.

HEH HEH ...


LOOK AT THE REMAINING CARDS DISPLAYED ON THE BOARD.
NOW...
ASSUME WE HAD 30 OF THEM.

I...DON'T REALLY SEE ANYTHING ...
EH?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?


HEH HEH ...
IT WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT MUCH OF AN ADVANTAGE.
I MEAN, THERE ARE MORE SCIS-SORS WHICH WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEAT, SO I GUESS WE'D HAVE A BIT OF AN ADVANT-AGE.
BUT...
THE SITUATION HAS YET TO ARISE...
TRUE. I GUESS I CAN'T BLAME YOU.

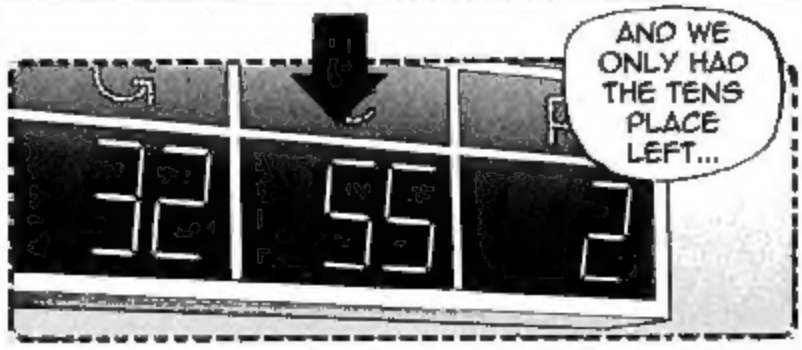

TIME
IMAGINE AN HOUR AND A HALF PASSES AND THE CURRENT CARD BALANCE CONTINUES.
WHAT ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF FROM NOW?

BUT ...
SO JUST SITTING THERE THINKING MAY ONLY GIVE THAT MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION.
AIR FORCE

AND THERE WERE ONLY 20 MINUTES LEFT?
WENT DOWN BY 100 EACH...
WHAT IF ROCK, PAPER, AND SCIS-SORS...

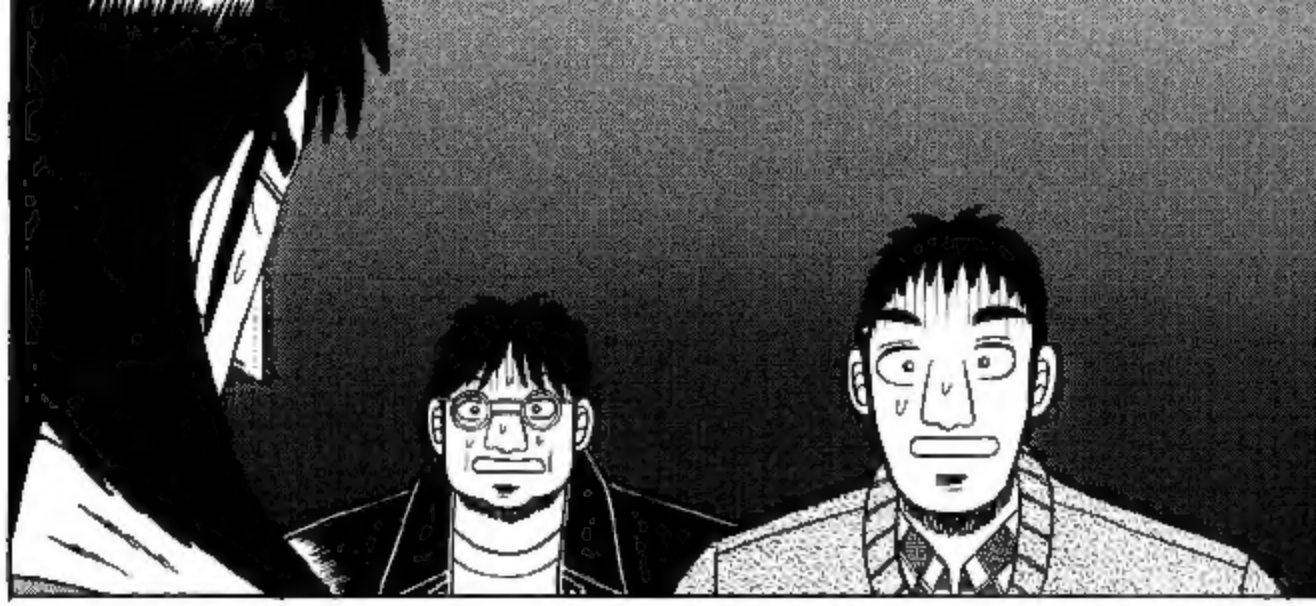
WHAT WOULD YOU THINK ABOUT HAVING 30 ROCKS THEN?

IF THE HUNDREDS PLACE DISAPPEARED ...
132
155
102


AND WE ONLY HAD THE TENS PLACE LEFT...
32
55
2

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT SITUATION?
55 SCISSORS AND 2 PAPERS WOULD REMAIN.

WOULD BE IN OUR HANDS.
THAT WOULD MEAN 30 OF THE 32 ROCKS DISPLAYED ...
32



HEH HEH ...
WE'D WIN ALMOST EVERY TIME!
W-WE'D HAVE AN OVER-WHELMING VICTORY!

UUH ...!

AND EVEN IF IT DOES, 30 STRAIGHT WINS OR 28 WINS AND 2 LOSSES ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN.
OF COURSE, THE SITUATION WON'T DEVELOP SO PERFECTLY IN REALITY.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

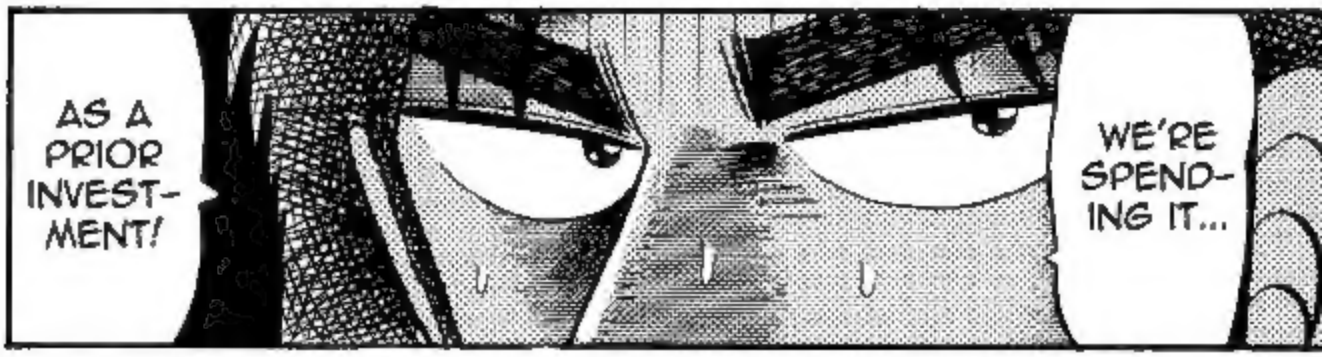
THIS WAS ALL JUST AN IDEALIZED THEORY.
THOSE WITH SCISSORS WON'T KEEP CHALLENGING US WHEN THEY KNOW THEY'LL LOSE.

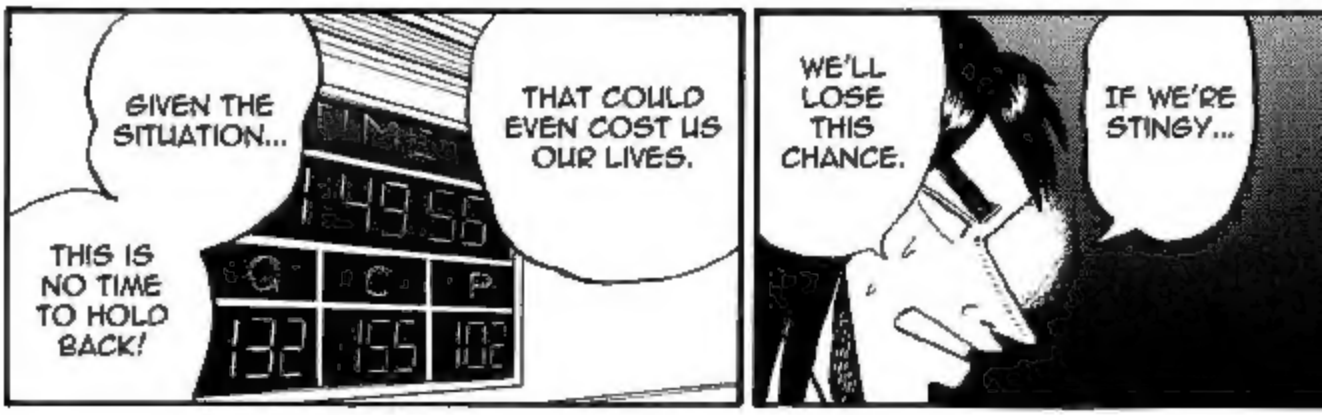
DO YOU UNDER-STAND? ANDOU.
FURU-HATA.
WE CAN CERTAINLY WIN OUR WAY THROUGH IF WE FIGHT A FEW TIMES.
THAT'S THE BASIC IDEA OF THE STRATEGY I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN.
BUT...
IF WE CREATE A SIMI-LAR SITUA-TION...

LET'S GATHER ROCKS!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

OF COURSE, WE AREN'T GOING TO GET THEM ALL FOR FREE.
IT WON'T BE THAT EASY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIRTY OF THEM?
.....

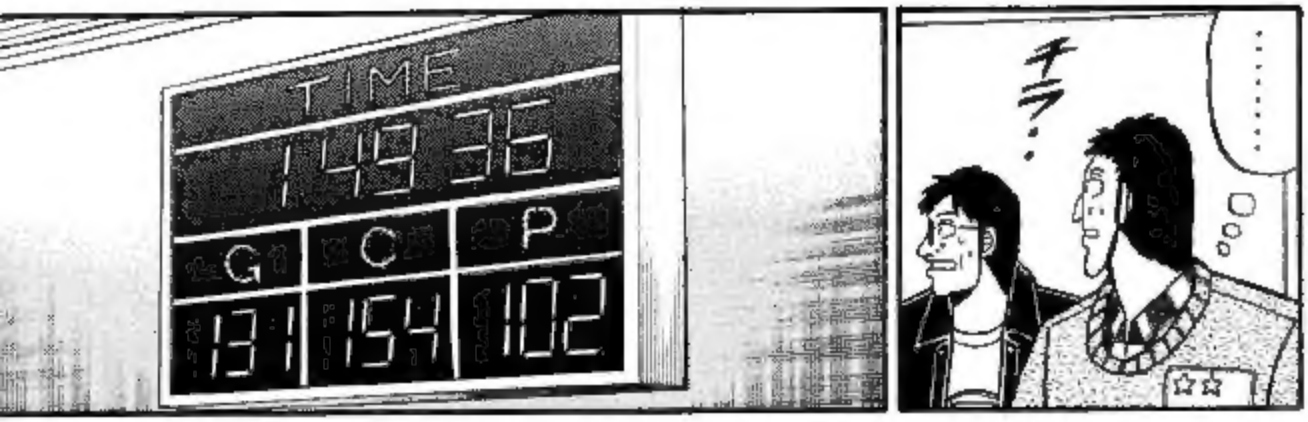
SPENDING 100,000 OR 200,000 ON A SINGLE ROCK...
IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY IF YOU THINK OF IT AS YOUR TICKET TO A STAR.
WE'LL USE OUR MONEY!
MONEY.


AS A PRIOR INVEST-MENT!
WE'RE SPEND-ING IT...


GIVEN THE SITUATION...
THIS IS NO TIME TO HOLD BACK!
THAT COULD EVEN COST US OUR LIVES.
WE'LL LOSE THIS CHANCE.
IF WE'RE STINGY...

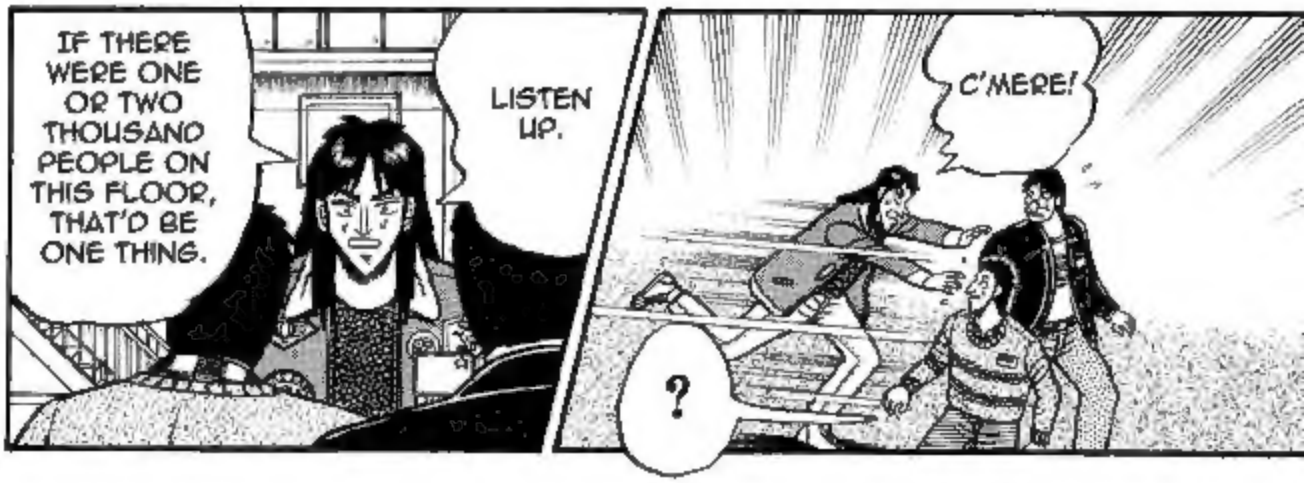
I DO!
YES!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND!?
.....

I SEE.
SO EVEN IF WE SPEND ALL THAT ON THIS...
WE CAN'T BUY ENOUGH STARS WITH OUR 2 MILLION YEN.
I'LL HAVE NO REGRETS.
I HAVE NO OBJEC-TIONS.


TIME
14 49 36
G
C
P
131
154
102
チラ…
……

HEY!
バラ バラ…
WE'RE OFF!
EXCUSE US...
OKAY, THEN...
EH?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
WAIT JUST A DAMN SECOND!

HAH?
WE CAN'T DO IT OURSELVES.
YOU IDIOTS!
OF COURSE ...!
TO BUY ROCKS ...


IF THERE WERE ONE OR TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR, THAT'D BE ONE THING.
LISTEN UP.
?
C'MERE!

BUT I SEE ONLY AROUND 70.

NO ONE IS GOING TO PLAY SCISSORS AGAINST US.
ONCE THEY KNOW WE HAVE A BUNCH OF ROCKS...
IF THEY REALIZE WE'RE BUYING THEM UP, IT'S ALL OVER.
IT WOULD BE OBVIOUS WHAT WE'RE DOING.
IF WE HEAD OUT TO BUY UP ALL THE ROCKS...

WE HAVE MONEY.
FURU-HATA ...
BUT...
OH...
IF THAT HAPPENS, BUYING THEM ALL UP WOULD BE A COMPLETE WASTE.

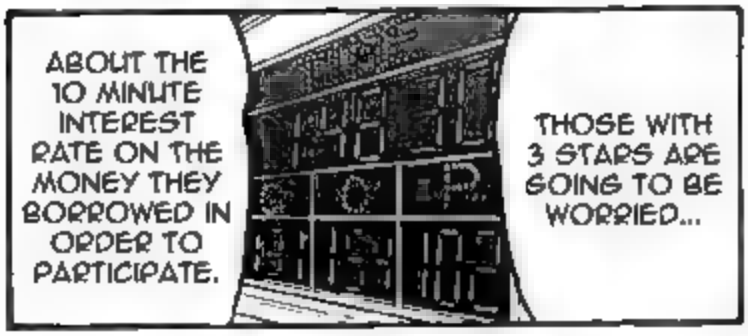
WE'LL USE OTHER PEOPLE!

SO EVERYONE IS STARTING TO REFUSE TO TAKE CARDS FROM THEM.
EVERYONE HAS REALIZED THERE ARE TOO FEW STARS ON THE FLOOR ...
WITH 3 OR 4 STARS ARE SUFFERING FOR A DIFFERENT REASON THAN WE ARE.
THOSE ON THE FLOOR...

ALL OF US WITH TOO FEW STARS FEEL THE SAME.
THEY DON'T WANT THE NUMBER OF STARS ON THE FLOOR TO LOWER ANY FURTHER!
THEY'LL IMMEDI-ATELY HEAD UP-STAIRS.
IF THEY TAKE THE CARDS FROM THOSE PEOPLE...

WE CAN'T USE THOSE WITH 4 STARS.
BUT NOT ALL OF THEM ARE THE SAME.
THOSE WITH 4 CAN'T JUST HEAD UPSTAIRS.
THOSE WITH PLENTY OF STARS HAVE THEIR OWN TROUBLES.
AND SO...
THEY CAN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS IN HANDING OVER THEIR CARDS.

TO GATHER ROCKS.
WE'LL HAVE THEM SECRETLY WORK FOR US...
AND PAY THEM OFF.
THAT'S WHY WE CALL OUT TO THOSE WITH 3 STARS...


ABOUT THE 10 MINUTE INTEREST RATE ON THE MONEY THEY BORROWED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE.
THOSE WITH 3 STARS ARE GOING TO BE WORRIED...

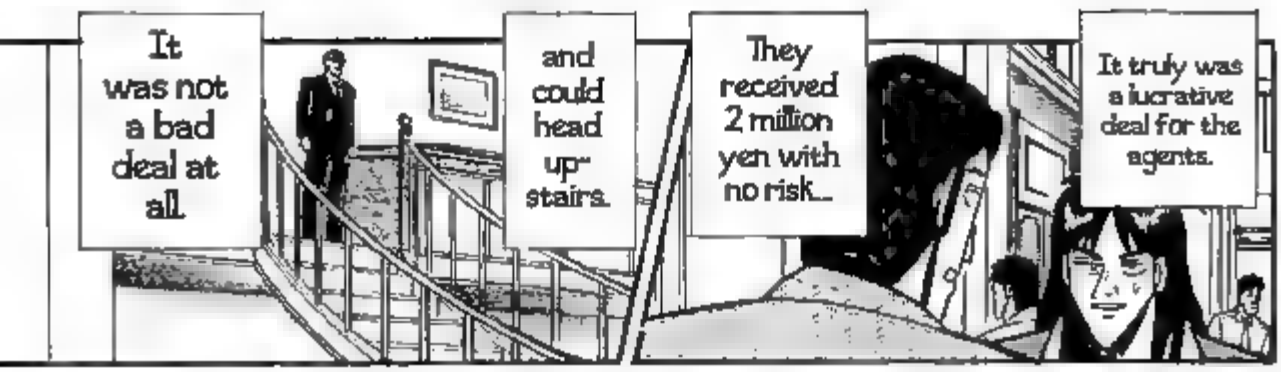
WE'LL TAKE ALL OF THEIR CARDS...
AFTER THEY SUCCESS-FULLY GATHER OVER 10 ROCKS...
AND GIVE THEM A FURTHER REWARD.

IT'S QUITE A GENEROUS OFFER.
WE WILL GIVE THEM 2 MILLION YEN WHICH WILL COVER THAT WITH SOME TO SPARE.
THEY'RE SURE TO JUMP AT THE CHANCE.

RIGHT?
.....

turned out to get hit after hit.

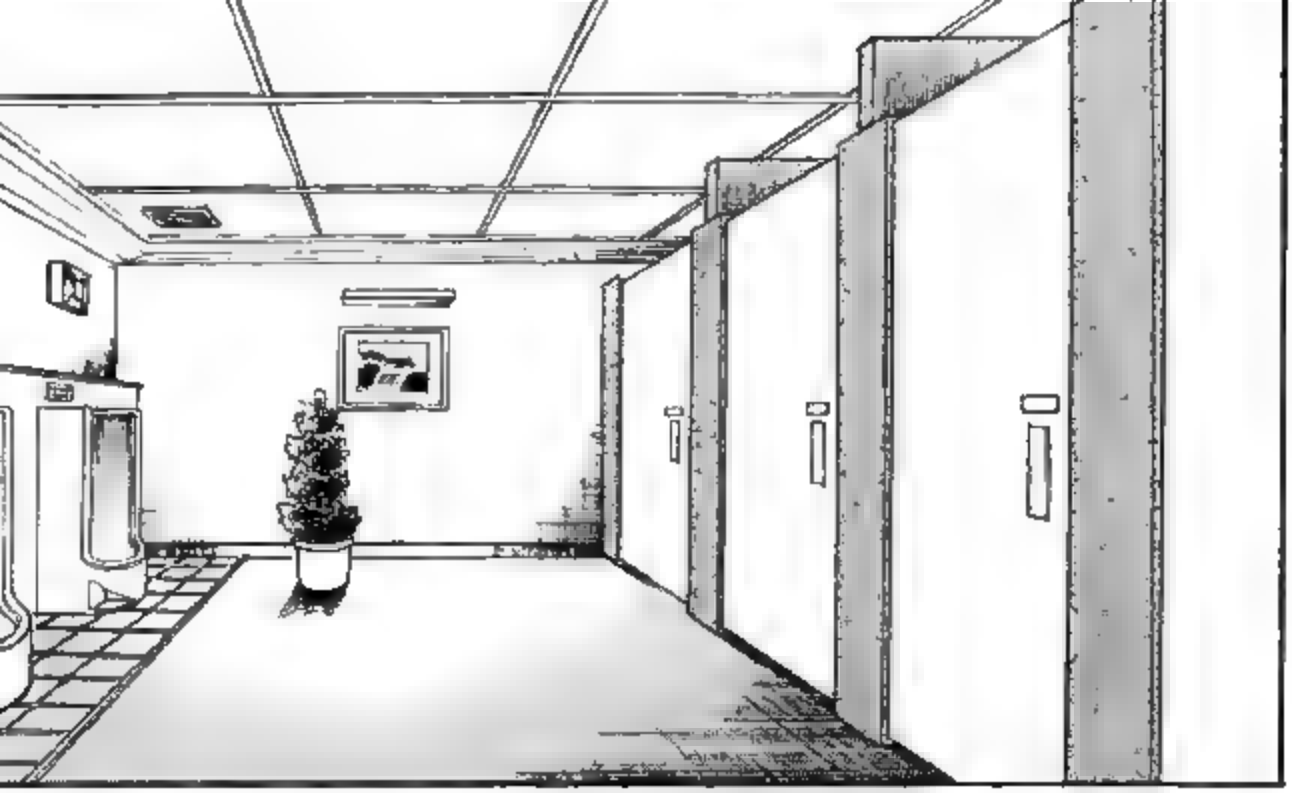
Kaiji's idea to use agents to gather the Rocks...
I SUP-POSE ...

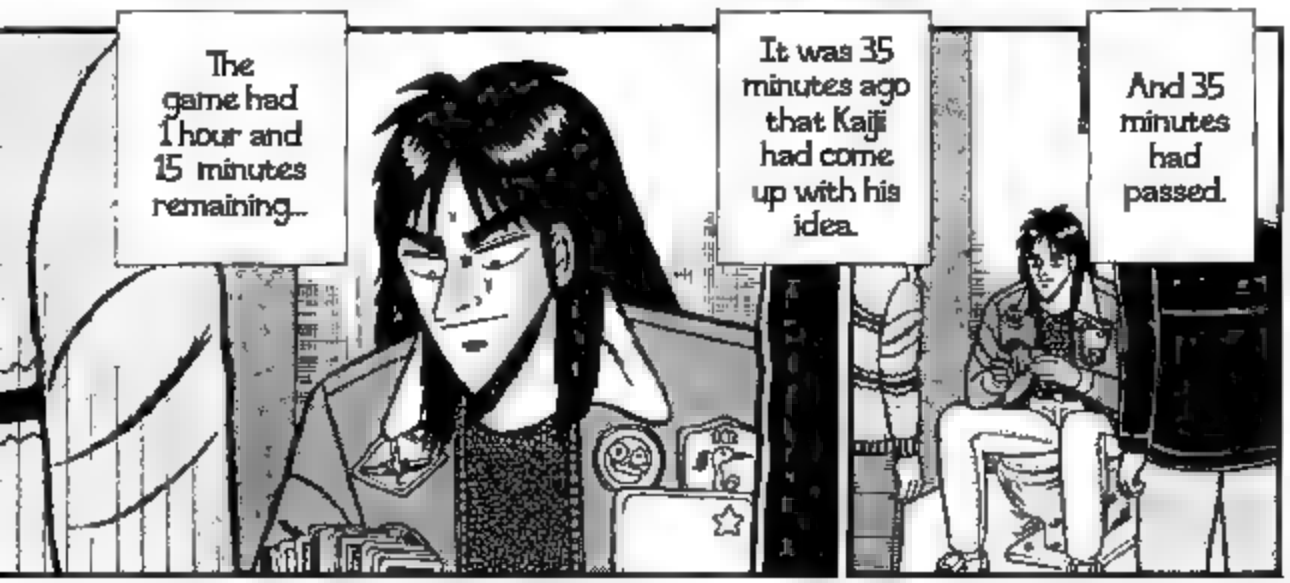

It was not a bad deal at all.
and could head up-stairs.
They received 2 million yen with no risk...
It truly was a lucrative deal for the agents.

they could remain hidden while obtaining the Rocks they needed in secret.
By having the agents handle it...

something important from the agents.
And Kaiji's group received —

It was a condition they had to clear no matter what.
Given the nature of the strategy to buy up one type of card...
that secrecy was indispensable.
That was Vital.
the only people who knew of Kaiji's group's actions...
that is, the agents —
To make things even more convenient —
Kaiji's group had succeeded.
It all progressed ideally.
They had disappeared from the floor.
Forever.
Once they had finished collecting the Rocks.
took their reward and headed upstairs...

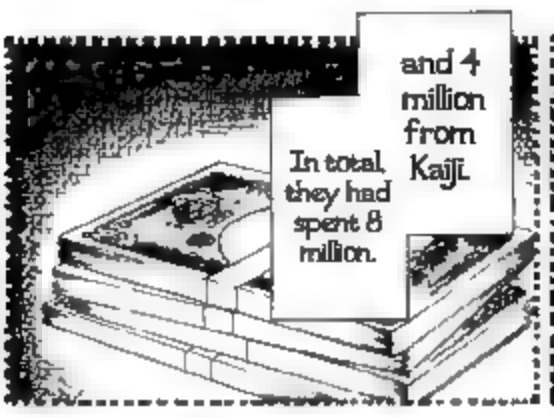



The game had 1 hour and 15 minutes remaining...
It was 35 minutes ago that Kaiji had come up with his idea.
And 35 minutes had passed.

and their ammunition —
Kaiji's group was betting their fate on this final strategy...
and Kaiji's group had acquired what they had hoped for.

G

WAS 30 ROCKS !!


In total, they had spent 8 million.
and 4 million from Kaiji.

was all of Furuhata and Andou's 2 million each...
The funds Kaiji's group invested in them...

.....

....
ANDOU ...

FURU-HATA ...
That money was gone, and they could not get it back.

WE'VE TAKEN THE PLUNGE ...!

IT FEELS SO GOOD.

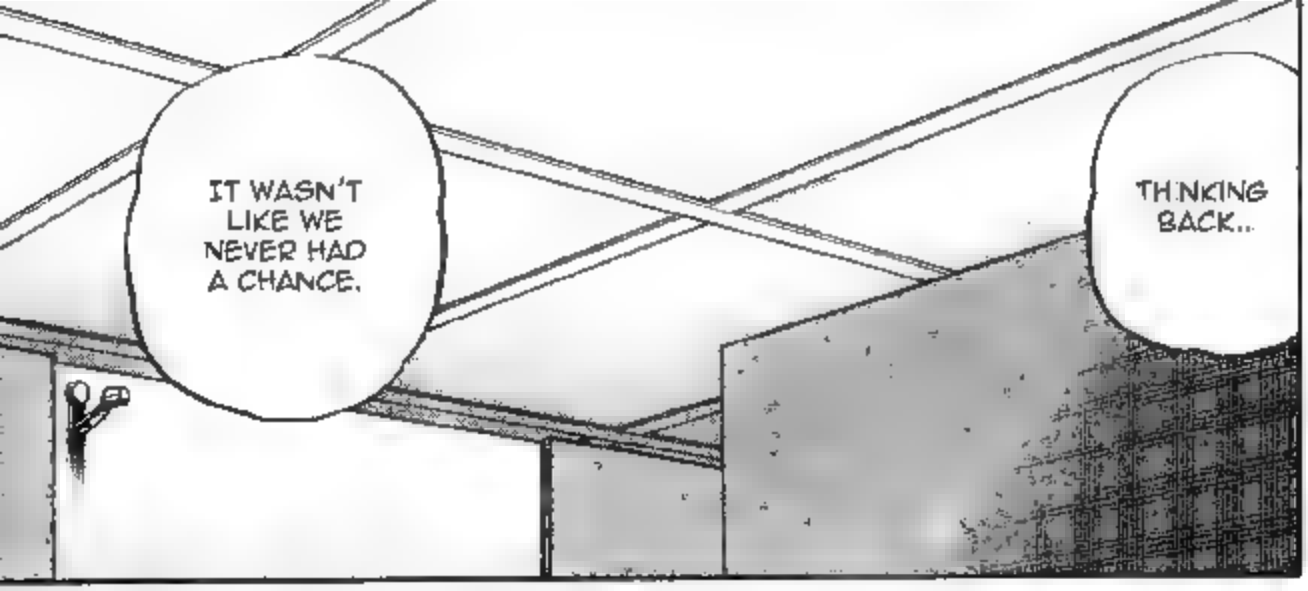
I CAN FEEL A TREMBL-ING.

THIS VERY WORLD.
WE ARE MANIPU-LATING...
KAIJI-SAN...

INTO THE STRUCTURE OF THIS RESTRICTED ROCK PAPER SCISSORS.
WE HAVE TAKEN THE PLUNGE ...

HEH HEH ...
MY HEART IS TREMBLING AT THE SCALE OF THIS STRATEGY!
NOW THEN ...
THE TRULY HARD PART ...
BEGINS NOW!

IF WE DON'T TURN THESE ROCKS INTO STARS ...
ALL THIS WILL HAVE BEEN A WASTE.
OUR WORK IS ONLY HALF OVER.
THE TRULY CRUCIAL MOMENT IS YET TO COME!
第19話 終
Chapter 19 Fin...


IT WASN'T LIKE WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE.
THINKING BACK...

BUT INSTEAD

GOTTEN THREE STARS AND ESCAPED THIS FLOOR.
IF WE'D DONE THINGS RIGHT, WE'D HAVE LONG SINCE.

.....
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN
SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS

AND JUST CONTINUED TO STRUGGLE FUTILELY.
...WE ACTED RASHLY
WE LET THAT PRE-CIOUS OPPOR-TUNITY

FAIL LIKE THAT AGAIN!
WE CAN'T

.....

CHAPTER 20 - SPECULATION

TRANSLATED BY JSOB
PROOFREAD BY SONICKRAZY
CLEANED BY DEAKACHU
TYPESETTING BY PENGUIN71

NEEDLESS TO SAY...

...BUYING UP THESE CARDS IS OUR LAST CHANCE!

COULD EASILY LEAD TO A FATAL DEFEAT.

MISSING OUR CHANCE.

IF YOU DON'T

. WE COULD EASILY MISS OUR CHANCE

I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW WE'LL USE THIS STRATEGY TO WIN.

EVEN IF WE GET A CHANCE TO BUY STARS, WE CAN ONLY AFFORD ONE

THAT MEANS WE CAN'T ESCAPE BY BUYING STARS

THAT LEAVES US WITH 6 MILLION.

. WE USED UP 8 MILLION YEN.

TO BUY UP ALL THESE ROCKS...

ABOUT TO DO

WHAT WE'RE .

. . . . .

YES ..

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

SO ...

. .LET ME MAKE THIS VERY CLEAR.

WE CAN'T SCREW UP ANY MORE.

WE'VE GOT NO WAY OUT

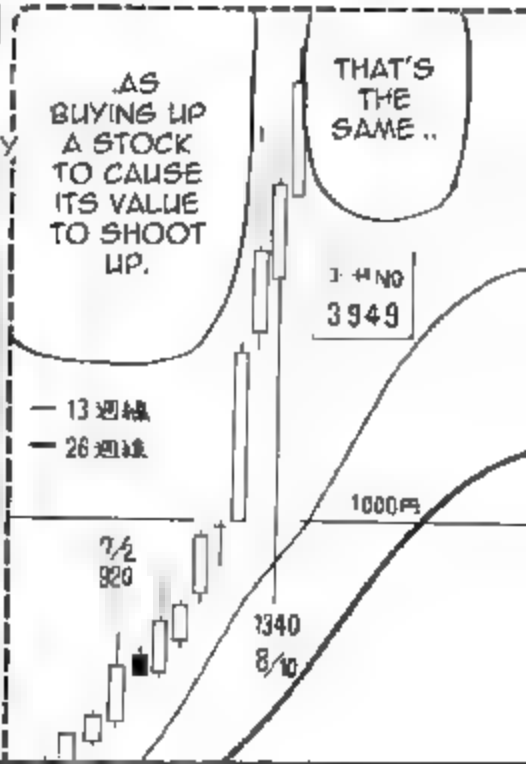
...IS KNOWN AS SPECULATION IN THE STOCK MARKET
IT IS SIMILAR TO MANIPULATING THE PRICE OF STOCKS.

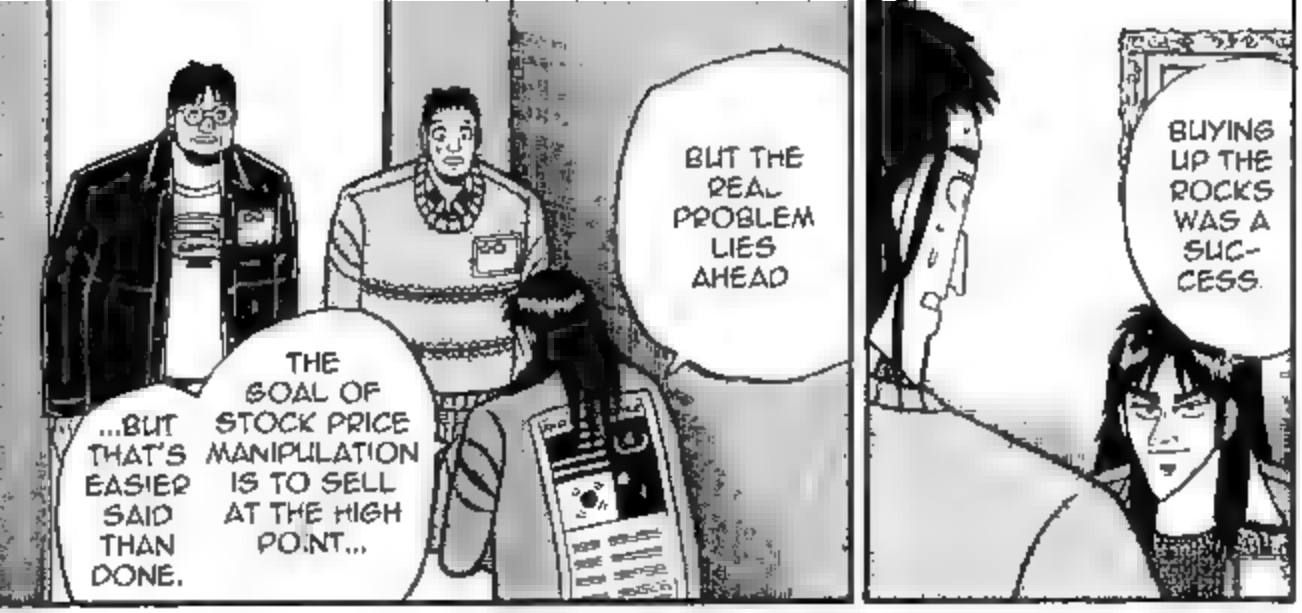
...WE HAVE SET THEM UP AS THE CARDS THAT WILL WIN
BY HOLDING ONTO THE ROCKS UNTIL THE END...

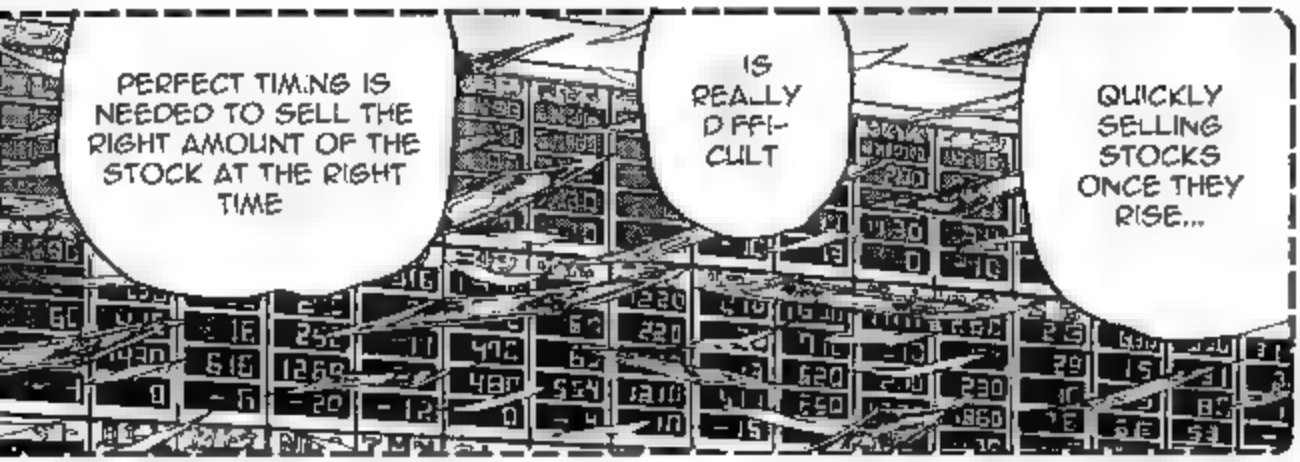
OFF OF THE LINE
WE'VE TAKEN "ROCK"

IT'S ALL GONE ACCORD- ING TO PLAN.
SO FAR, THE TRANSITION HAS PROGRESSED SMOOTHLY.

EXACTLY THE SAME AS STOCK PRICE MANIPULATION BY SPECULATION!

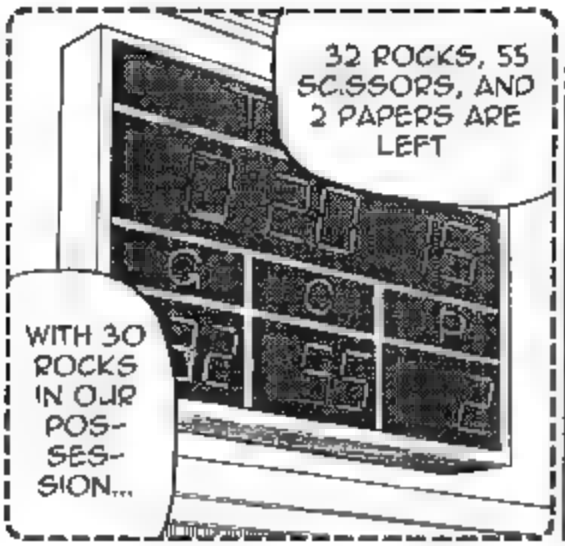

AS BUYING UP A STOCK TO CAUSE ITS VALUE TO SHOOT UP.
THAT'S THE SAME..
3949
13週線
26週線
1000円
7/2
920
1340
8/10


BUYING UP THE ROCKS WAS A SUC-CESS.
BUT THE REAL PROBLEM LIES AHEAD
THE GOAL OF STOCK PRICE MANIPULATION IS TO SELL AT THE HIGH POINT...
...BUT THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.


QUICKLY SELLING STOCKS ONCE THEY RISE...
IS REALLY DIFFI-CULT
PERFECT TIMING IS NEEDED TO SELL THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF THE STOCK AT THE RIGHT TIME

WE'RE IN THE SAME SITUA-TION!
SINCE THERE WERE MORE SCISSORS THAN THE OTHER TWO, THE WINNING CARD WAS ROCK.
WE REALIZED THAT AND BOUGHT UP THE ROCKS. WE ACQUIRED THE WINNING CARD.
THAT ITSELF IS NOT DIFFICULT
BUYING UP IS EASY.
BUT.

"SELLING" AT THE RIGHT TIME IS MUCH HARDER !!

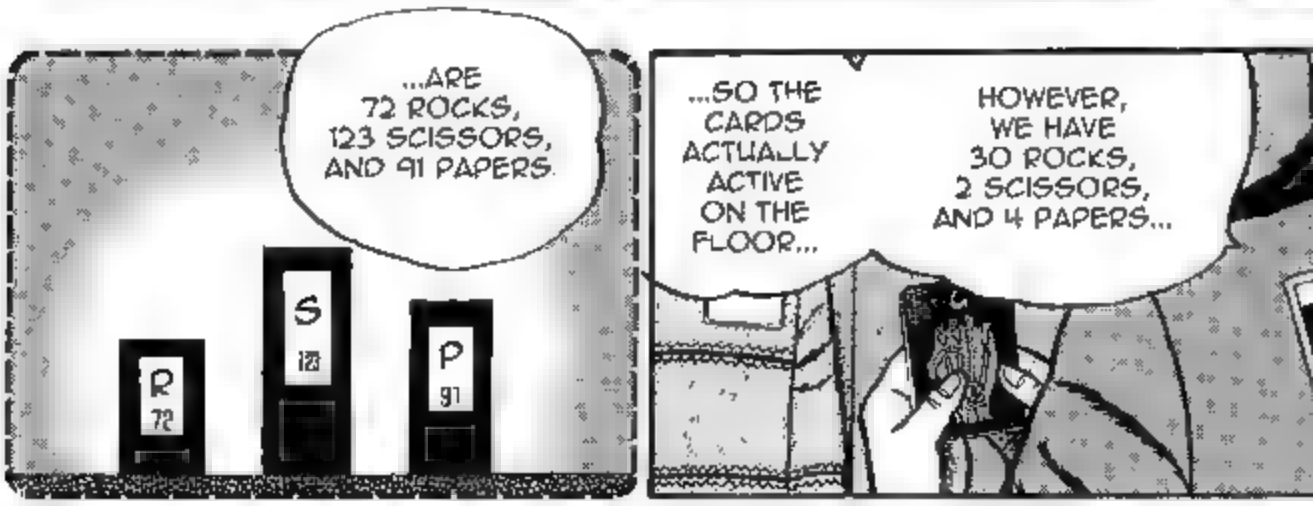


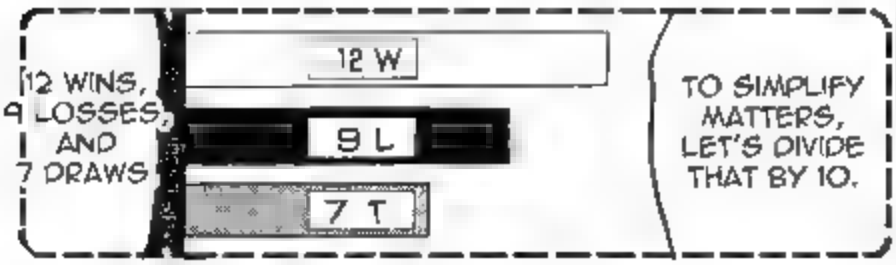
...NO ONE'S GONNA USE SC SSORS AGAINST US
FROM THEN ON.
...AND THE KNOWLEDGE WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE FLOOR IN NO TIME AT ALL

WINNING CARDS MEAN NOTHING IF NO ONE CHALLENGES YOU!

WE MUST AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS.
IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS STRANGLING OURSELVES.
...SEEMS IDEAL AT FIRST
THAT'S WHY THAT EXTREME SITUATION
HOW MUCH... IS ENOUGH?
BUT THEN.
BUT IS ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE

.WERE 102 ROCKS, 125 SC.SSORS, AND 95 PAPERS.
BEFORE WE CAME HERE, THE REMAINING CARDS...
. FOR THE BEST RESULTS?
HOW FAR DO WE LET THE SITUATION DEVELOP

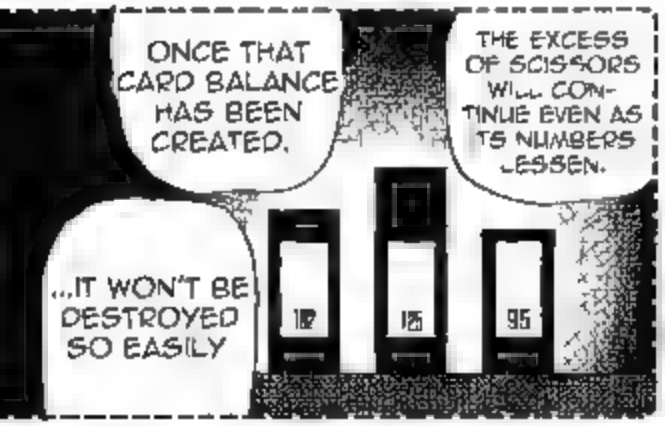

...ARE 72 ROCKS, 123 SCISSORS, AND 91 PAPERS.
R 72
S 123
P 91
...SO THE CARDS ACTUALLY ACTIVE ON THE FLOOR...
HOWEVER, WE HAVE 30 ROCKS, 2 SCISSORS, AND 4 PAPERS...


12 WINS, 9 LOSSES, AND 7 DRAWS
12 W
9 L
7 T
TO SIMPLIFY MATTERS, LET'S DIVIDE THAT BY 10.

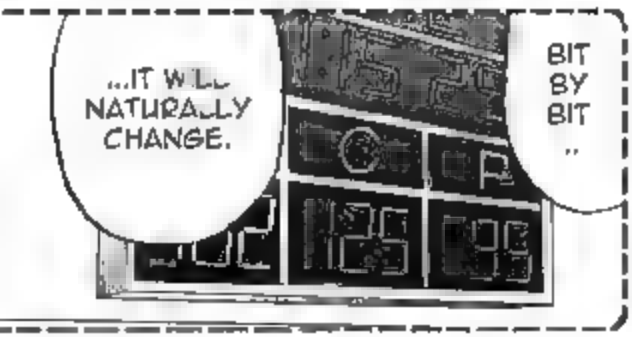
IF WE HEAD OUT THERE IN THAT SITUA-TION .
.. AND USED ONLY ROCKS ..
. WE WOULD HAVE 123 WINS, 91 LOSSES, AND 72 DRAWS

IT'S JUST TOO SOON.
WE CAN'T MAKE OUR MOVE YET.
THAT'S A BIT UNFOR-GIVING
THAT PUTS OUR ODDS OF VICTORY AT ABOUT 57%

WE'LL WAIT A BIT LONGER!


ONCE THAT CARD BALANCE HAS BEEN CREATED.
THE EXCESS OF SCISSORS WILL CONTINUE EVEN AS ITS NUMBERS LESSEN.
...IT WON'T BE DESTROYED SO EASILY
182
125
95

...A MORE IDEAL SITUATION WILL SHOW ITSELF
IF WE WAIT A BIT.

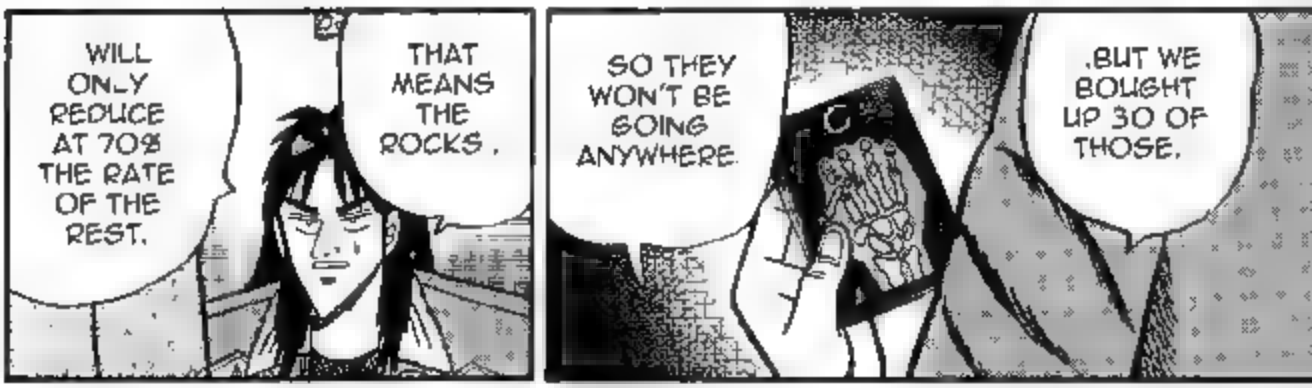

...IT WILL NATURALLY CHANGE.
BIT BY BIT ..

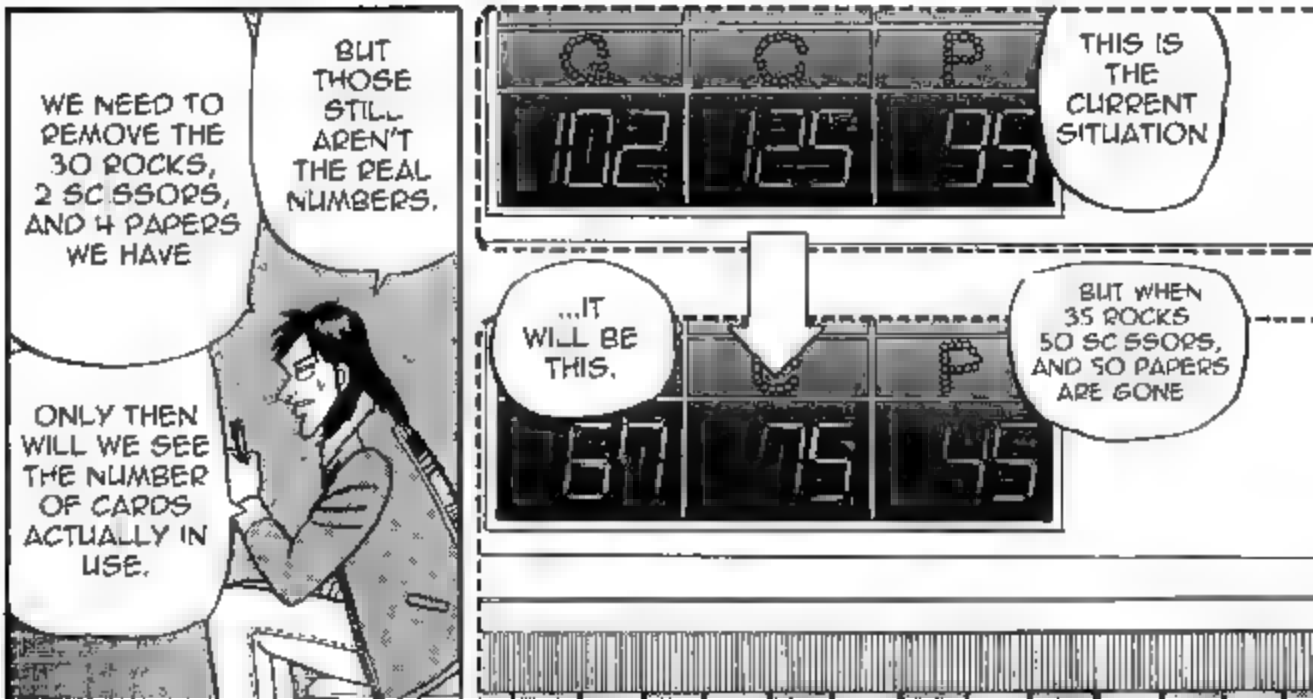
THE USAGE OF CARDS WILL OF COURSE NOT BE PERFECTLY EVEN
MOST LIKELY, THERE WON'T BE ANY MAJOR CHANGES FROM HERE ON OUT

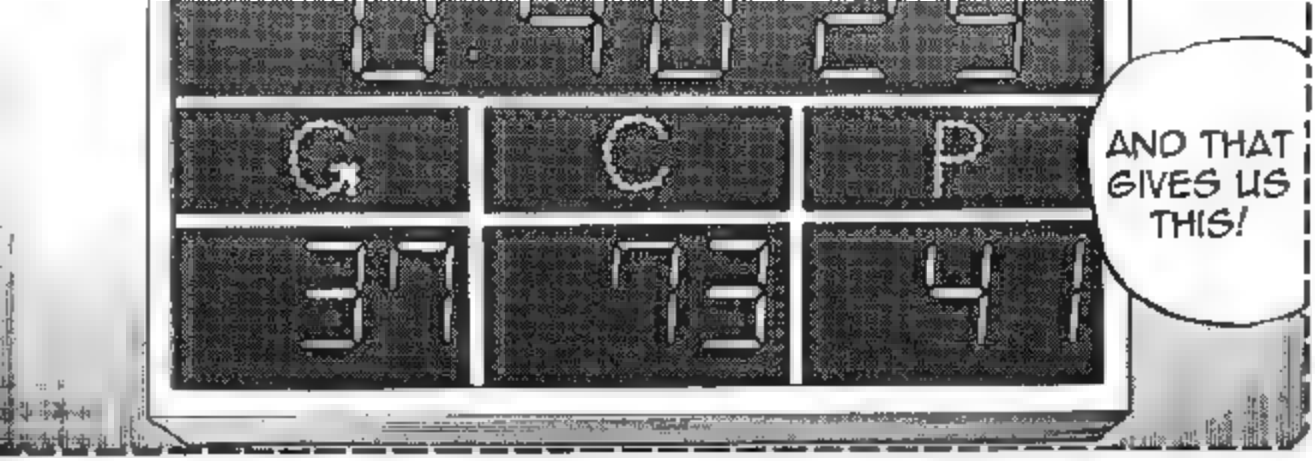
AT THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE
.. BUT I CAN TAKE A GUESS...

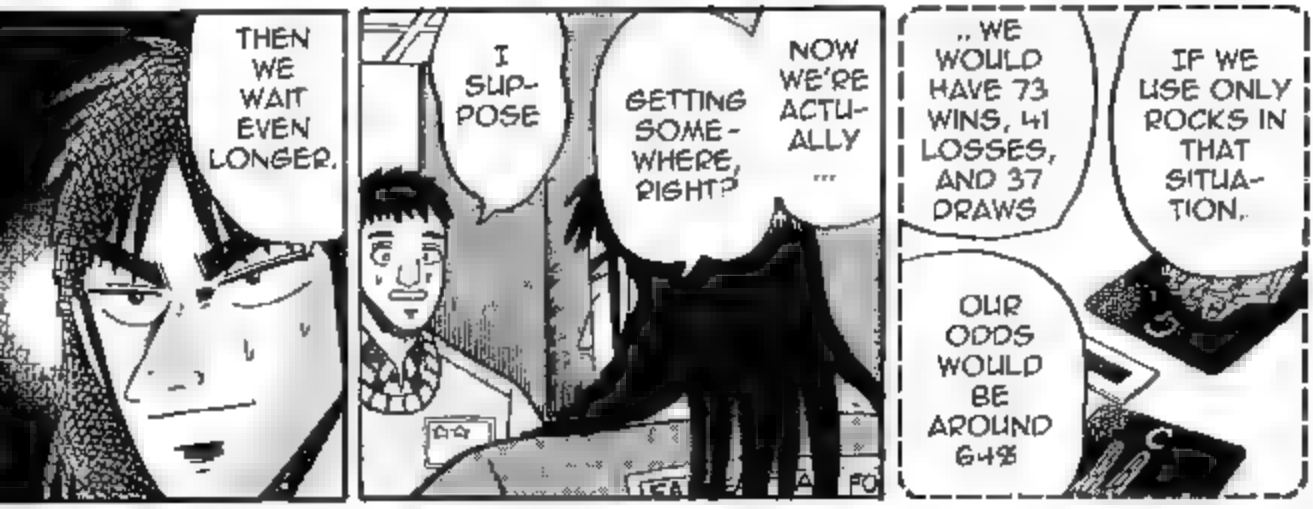
WELL, IT'S JUST A ROUGH CALCULATION...
USING THOSE ASSUMPTIONS...

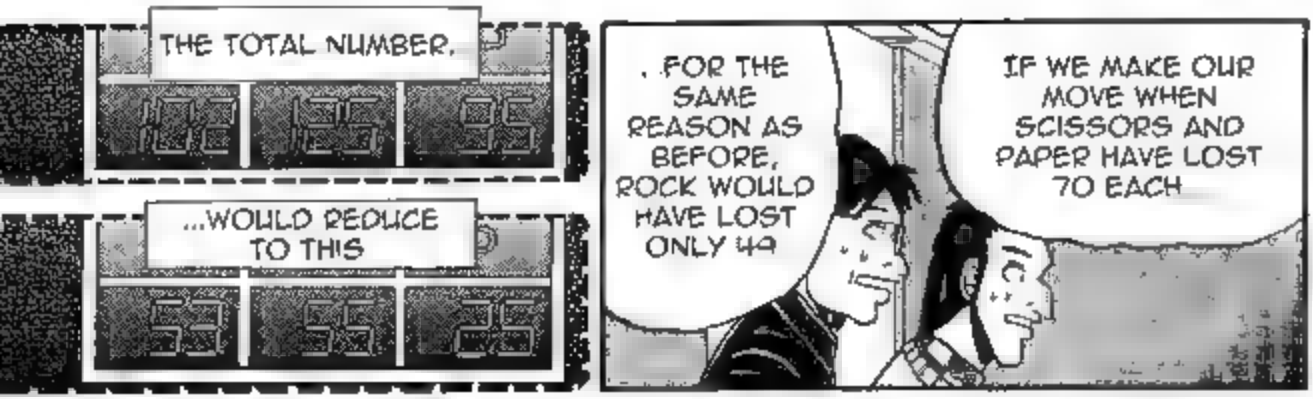
HUH?
THEY'LL ONLY GO DOWN BY ABOUT 35.
LET'S SAY BOTH PAPERS AND SCISSORS HAVE GONE DOWN BY 50 EACH
IN HALF AN HOUR.
IN THAT SAME TIME, ROCKS WILL ONLY GO DOWN BY 70% OF THAT.
.THE BOARD MAY SAY THERE ARE 102 ROCKS .
AFTER ALL


WILL ONLY REDUCE AT 70% THE RATE OF THE REST.
THAT MEANS THE ROCKS .
SO THEY WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE
.BUT WE BOUGHT UP 30 OF THOSE.


WE NEED TO REMOVE THE 30 ROCKS, 2 SCISSORS, AND 4 PAPERS WE HAVE
BUT THOSE STILL AREN'T THE REAL NUMBERS.
ONLY THEN WILL WE SEE THE NUMBER OF CARDS ACTUALLY IN USE.
THIS IS THE CURRENT SITUATION
...IT WILL BE THIS.
BUT WHEN 35 ROCKS 50 SCISSORS, AND 50 PAPERS ARE GONE


G
C
P
37
13
41
AND THAT GIVES US THIS!


THEN WE WAIT EVEN LONGER.
I SUP-POSE
GETTING SOME-WHERE, RIGHT?
NOW WE'RE ACTU-ALLY ...
.. WE WOULD HAVE 73 WINS, 41 LOSSES, AND 37 DRAWS
IF WE USE ONLY ROCKS IN THAT SITUA-TION.
OUR ODDS WOULD BE AROUND 64%


THE TOTAL NUMBER,
...WOULD REDUCE TO THIS
53
55
25
. FOR THE SAME REASON AS BEFORE, ROCK WOULD HAVE LOST ONLY 49
IF WE MAKE OUR MOVE WHEN SCISSORS AND PAPER HAVE LOST 70 EACH

OUR ODDS WOULD BE 71%
IF WE USED ONLY ROCKS, WE WOULD HAVE 53 WINS, 21 LOSSES, AND 23 DRAWS
THERE'D BE NOTHING TO COM-PLAIN ABOUT.
THESE ARE THE CARDS IN USE.
WE GET THIS!
AND IF WE REMOVE OUR OWN CARDS FROM THAT
G
C
P
23
53
21

THAT WOULD BE JUST ON THE EDGE OF BEING TOO LATE TO MAKE OUR MOVE.
GIVEN HOW MANY CARDS WOULD REMAIN .
BUT AT THE SAME TIME
. IT'S JUST BARELY ON THE EDGE
FORCE

WOULD BE THE BEST TIME .
.TO MAKE OUR MOVE.
MOST LIKELY, SOMETIME BETWEEN THE 6:43 I MENTIONED BEFORE AND THIS 7:18.

AN UNEASY ATMOSPHERE WOULD SPREAD
ONCE DISTRUST AND WARINESS SET IN...
.IT'S ALL OVER

THE NUMBER OF ROCKS WOULD DROP TOO QUICKLY.
SOME ON THE FLOOR WOULD NOTICE THAT SOMETHING WAS STRANGE
ONCE THEY DO

WHEN WE DO, WE MUST NOT STAND OUT
. . . . .

IF ALL THREE OF US SUDDENLY STARTED USING ONLY ROCKS...
WE WILL NOT ALL GO AT ONCE

THE FIRST WILL PLAY 10 GAMES
AFTER WINNING A BIT...
. HE WILL DISAPPEAR FROM THE FLOOR
...AND THE SECOND WILL GO
WE WILL GO ONE AT A TIME TO ENSURE THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN

...WE WILL USE UP OUR ROCKS ON THE FLOOR.
BIT BY BIT
IN THAT WAY, WE'LL PLAY 30 GAMES BETWEEN US.
HE WILL ALSO PLAY 10 GAMES.

...IS TO NOT LET ANYONE CATCH ON
THE TRICK
.....
WE WILL GO BIT BY BIT WITHOUT HURRYING.
WE WILL BLEND IN

.....
TOGETHER, WE COULD HAVE 10 STARS..OR EVEN 12 OR 13!
THIS WILL WORK!
AS LONG AS NO ONE CATCHES ON

..BUT WE'LL STILL HAVE 8 OR 9 LEFTOVER
FOUR OF THOSE WILL DISAPPEAR IN ORDER TO BRING OUR OWN COUNT UP TO 9..
THAT MEANS
.....
KAIJI-SAN!

KAIJI-SAN
THAT MUCH MONEY CAN BE OURS!
WE'LL STILL HAVE OVER 7 MILLION EACH.
..EVEN AFTER PAYING BACK THE MONEY WE BORROWED ON THIS SHIP PLUS INTEREST...

MAKE IT THROUGH THE NEXT HOUR OR SO.
IF WE CAN...
WE WILL.
THIS WILL BE A GREAT VIC-TORY!

SEOUL
...BE LEAVING THIS SHIP WITH PLENTY OF MONEY!

LET'S START OVER!
KAIJI-SAN!
KAIJI-SAN!
FURUHATA.
KAIJI-SAN..

THE TWO OF US SHOULD START OVER!
IF WE SUCCESSFULLY LEAVE THIS SHIP WITH ALL THAT MONEY.
?.....

OF LIVING WITH NO CLEAR GOALS
LET'S ESC-APE
THOSE DAYS.
UP UNTIL NOW.
OUR LIVES WERE STAG-NANT

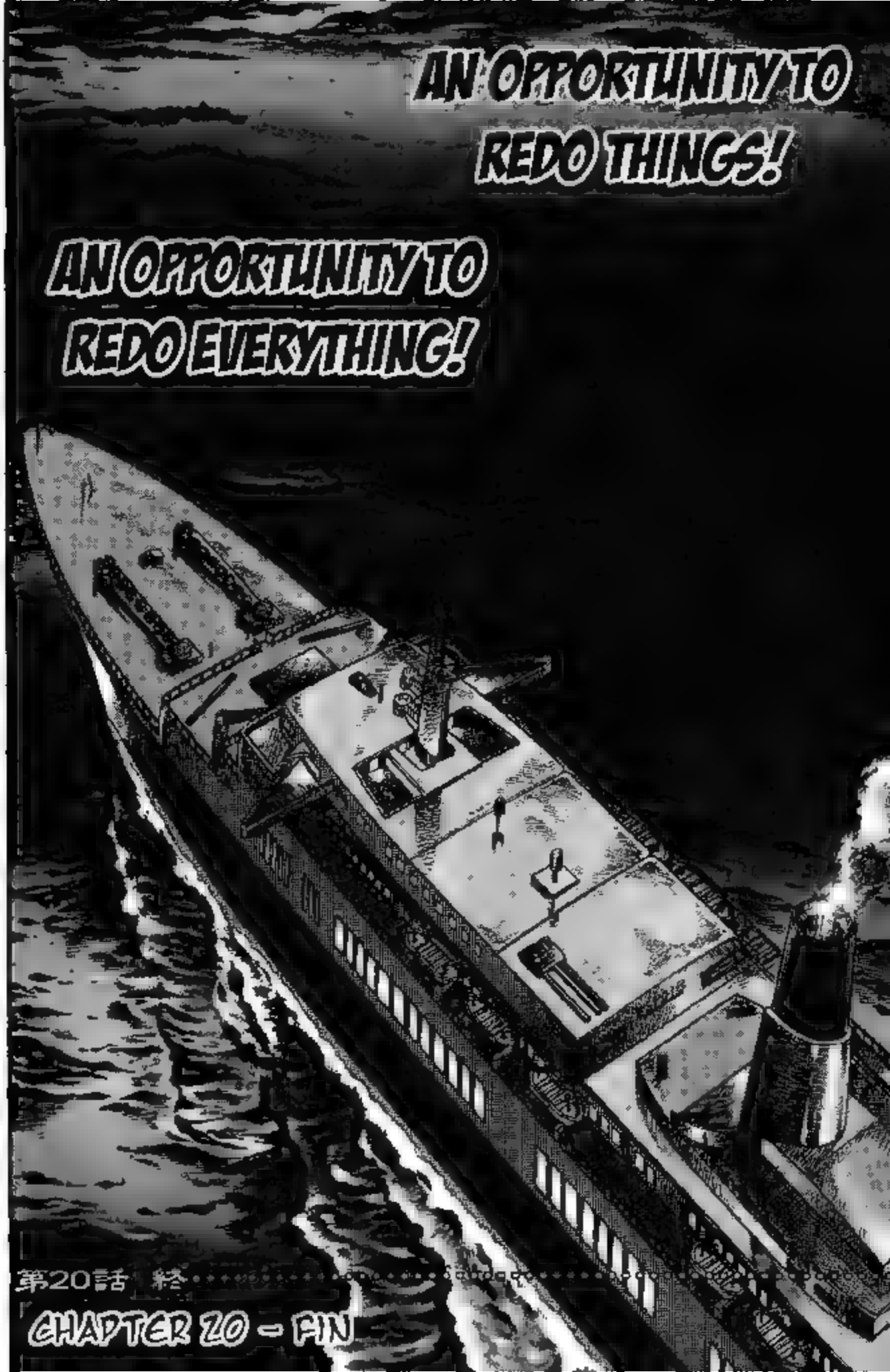
...WE NEED TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH MORE VALUE.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...

.....
...LET'S START FRESH WITH A NEW LIFESTYLE!
.. BUT ..
I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO PUT IT
THIS TIME, WE CAN DO IT!

KAIJI-SAN.
.....
.....
KH...
I'LL DO MY BEST!
SO WILL I!
THIS SHIP IS AN OPPOR-TUNITY.

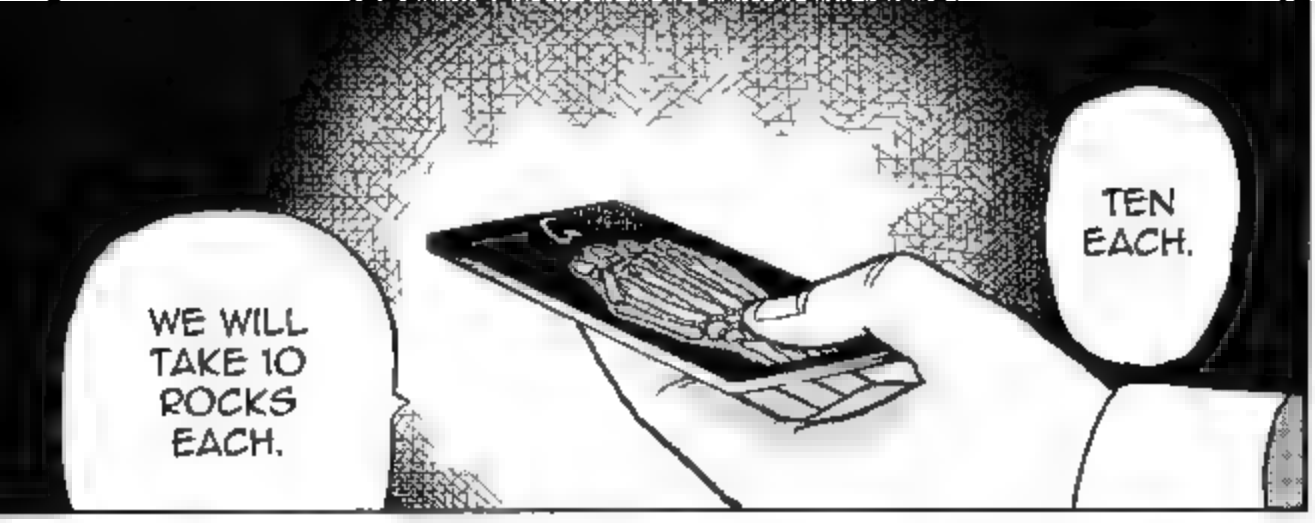
AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDO THINGS!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDO EVERYTHING!



第20話 終

CHAPTER 20 - FIN


TEN EACH.
WE WILL TAKE 10 ROCKS EACH.

ACTING INDI-VIDU-ALLY..
OR NOT IN CONCERT WITH EACH OTHER...
..WILL LEAD DIRECTLY TO DEATH.
YOU AREN'T TO GO OFF AND CHALLENGE ANYONE UNTIL I SAY TO.
HOW-EVER.

YES.

YES

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
THIS IS A TEAM STRATEGY TO THE END.

THAT WOULD MEAN THE FAILURE OF THIS STRATEGY

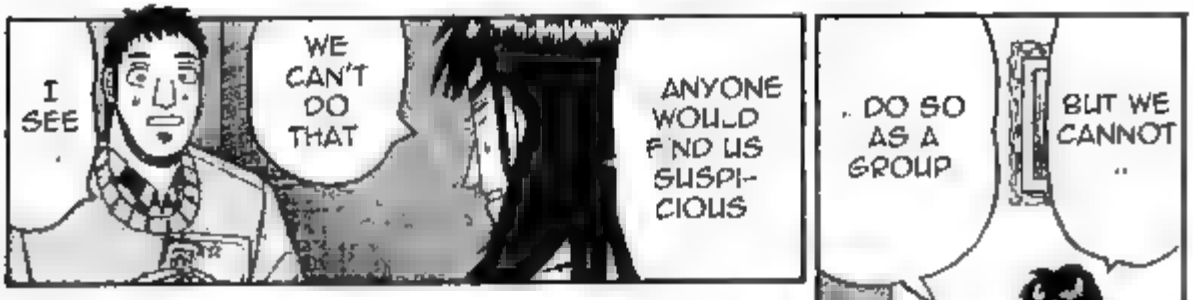
CHAPTER 21 "PANIC"

TRANSLATED BY JSOG
PROOFREAD BY SONICKRAZY

CLEANED BY DEAKACHU
TYPESET BY DENGUIN71

RIGHT AWAY.
WE NEED TO GET STARTED.
NOW ...
.....

.. S CHECK THE ELECTRONIC BOARD.
THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO...


I SEE .
WE CAN'T DO THAT
ANYONE WOULD FIND US SUSPICIOUS

...WE'LL CHECK THE REMAINING TIME AND NUMBERS OF EACH CARD
IN 5 MINUTE SHIFTS ..
WE'LL GO ONE AT A TIME
ONE AT A TIME.
.. DO SO AS A GROUP
BUT WE CANNOT ..
IF ALL THREE OF US STOOD IN A ROW STARING

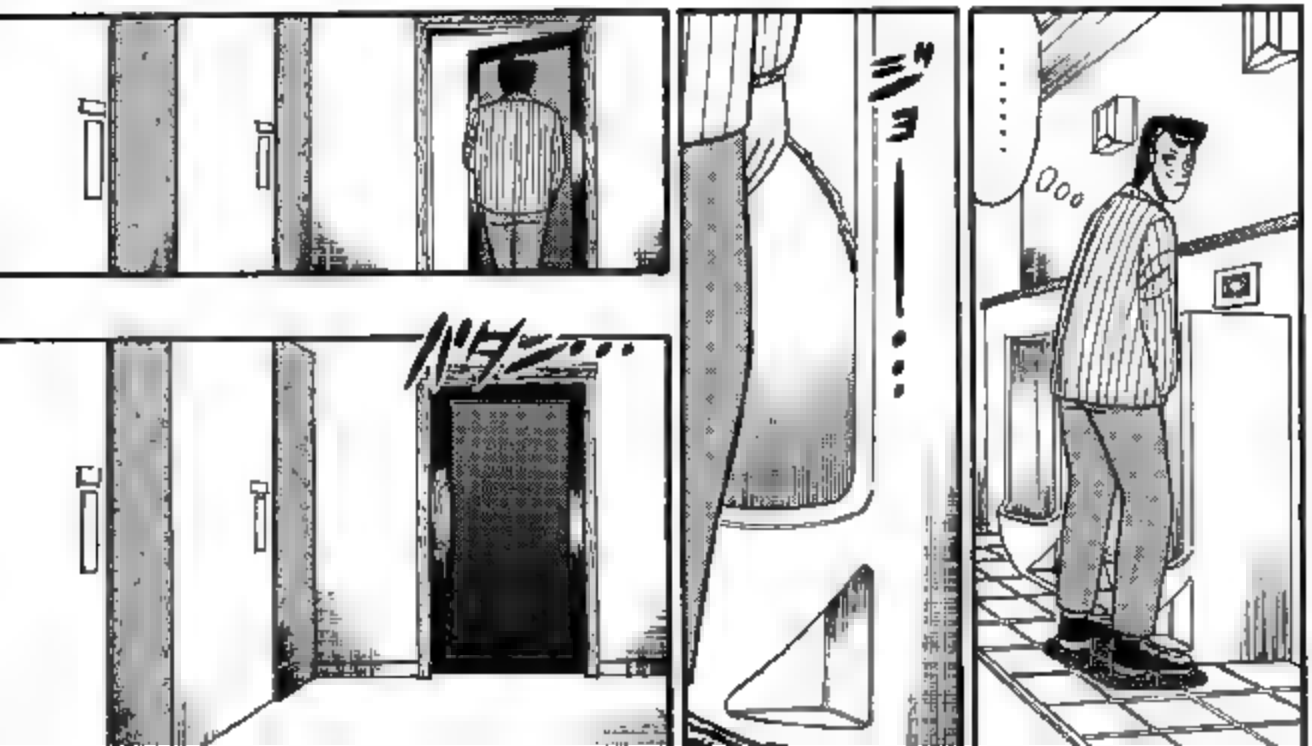
OH
...
WE HEAD OUT TO USE OUR ROCKS.
WE WILL REPEAT THAT UNTIL...
THEN THE NEXT PERSON GOES.
WE SWITCH OUT.
AND WHEN THE OTHER ONE RETURNS AFTER 5 MINUTES
TWO OF US WILL WAIT IN THE BATH-ROOM
..

UM..

CREAK ...
WHAT I MEAN IS..
SHH!
...BUT ONLY 2 SCISSORS AND 4 PAPERS.
WE HAVE 30 ROCKS
WE CAN GET OR BUY .
WHAT DO WE DO IF IT LOOKS LIKE.
SOME CARDS WHILE ON THE FLOOR?
EH?

SOME-
ONE'S
HERE
EH?

……


バタン…
ジョ——!…
……
Ooo

.....
LOOKS LIKE HE DIDN'T NOTICE US
HOO
.....
OH
YOU WERE SAYING ?
HOW FEW SCISSORS AND PAPERS WE HAVE...
THAT I DON'T LIKE
SO WOULDN'T IT BE BEST IF
WHAT I MEAN IS.
RIGHT.

YES.
WE HAVE 2 SCISSORS AND 4 PAPERS, RIGHT?
.....
WE BOUGHT SOME MORE?
.....
RIGHT.
WE WON'T BUY ANYMORE?
LET'S NOT
YES
YES
UNDER-STAND ?!
WE NEED TO KEEP AS LOW A PROFILE AS WE CAN.
LET'S NOT TAKE ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT SEEM SUSPICIOUS.

OKAY!
YOU GO FIRST.
GO CHECK FOR US.
OKAY.
LET'S DO THIS.
ANDOU.

HEY!
I'M GO.NG THEN

OKAY!
GO SILENTLY AND RETURN SILENTLY!
DON'T ANNOUNCE YOUR EVERY ACTION!
WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES YOU?
HON-EST-LY.

HOO..
.....

NOT AT ALL.
NO
EH?
HARSH ON HIM?
DO YOU THINK I WAS A BIT TOO.

SO NO ONE WOULD BLAME YOU.
HE CAN BE A BIT THICK...
AND EVEN IF YOU WERE A BIT HARSH.
I DIDN'T THINK SO

WHOOPS.
HEH HEH ...
ANYONE WOULD GET A BIT UPSET!

.....
HOO
NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS STALL
I CAN'T SMOKE IN HERE

AT THIS POINT
...KAIJI ALREADY FELT DEEP DOWN...
...THAT SOMETHING WAS OFF.

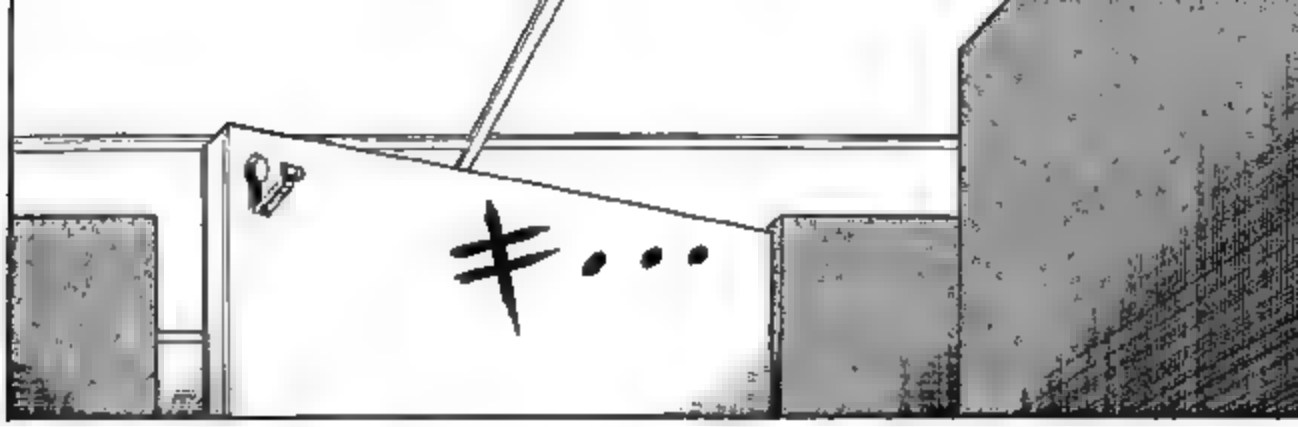
.....

.....
KAIJI HAD NO IDEA...
...WHAT WAS CAUSING IT.

...THAT HE COULD NOT QUITE PUT HIS FINGER ON.
IT WAS A FRUS-TRATING AND UN-KNOWN SENSE OF DANGER...

...AN OMEN OF A CERTAIN ANOMALY.
DEEP, DEEP IN HIS HEART, HE FELT...

KAIJI FELT IT.
BUT IT WAS DEFINITELY THERE.


キ・・・

...AND MADE HIS REPORT.

...ANDOU CAME BACK...
AFTER 5 MINUTES ...

....

89 ROCKS, 120 SCISSORS AND 94 PAPERS REMAINED.
THAT'S NOT TOO BAD
I KNOW

AN HOUR AND 3 MINUTES WERE LEFT.

.....

...THINGS WERE GOING WELL.
ハァ・・・

AFTER THE FIRST CHECK ...
WELL, I'LL GO NEXT.

KAIJI COULD NOT GET RID OF THAT UNEASE.
AND YET ...
...BUT IT WAS GETTING STRONGER.
NOT ONLY THAT ..
THINGS ARE PROGRESSING WELL.
THINGS ARE GOING WELL.
WHAT IS THIS?
AND THEN ...
.....
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SO ANXIOUS ABOUT.

KAIJI-SAN..
FIVE MINUTES HAD NOT YET PASSED.
KAIJI-SAN!
ONLY 2 OR 3 MINUTES HAD PASSED WHEN FURUHATA RETURNED.
AND HIS FACE WAS COM-PLETELY PALE!
...ISN'T RIGHT.
SOME-THING..
.....
WHAT IS IT?

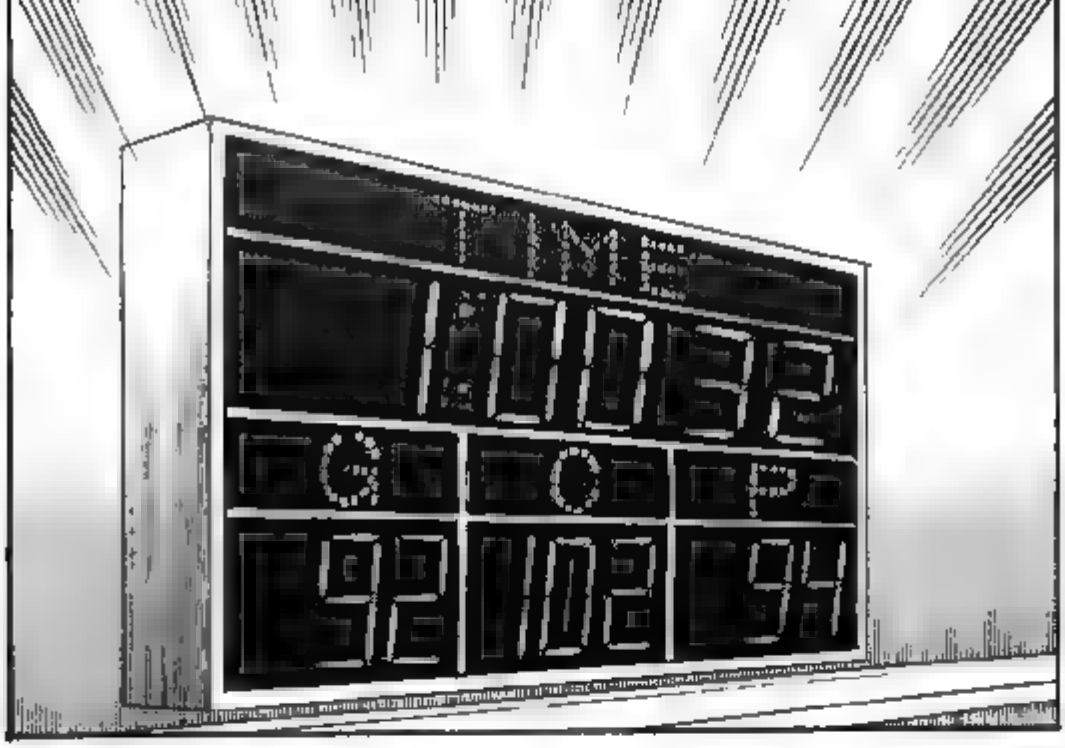
QUICKLY ...
COME WITH ME...

FURUHATA!?

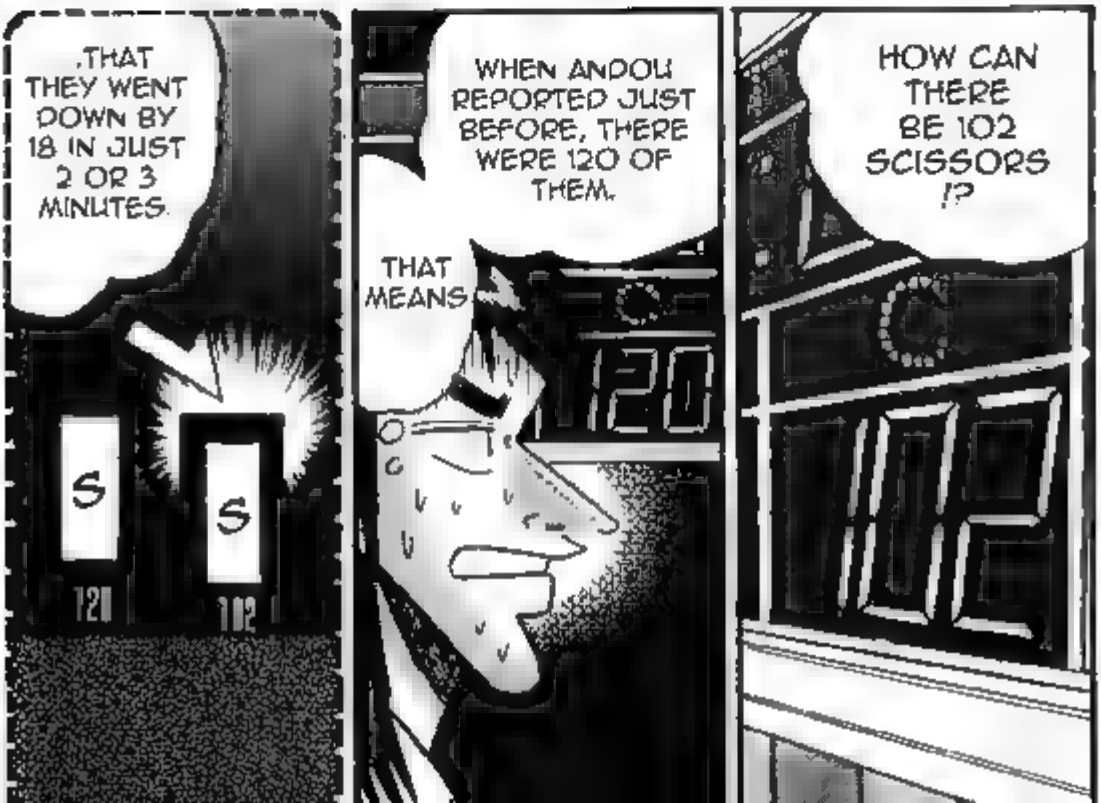
WHAT IS IT ALL OF A SUD-DEN?

BUT IT WAS.
KAIJI'S CONSTANT ANXIETY AND WORRY...

IT CAN'T BE!

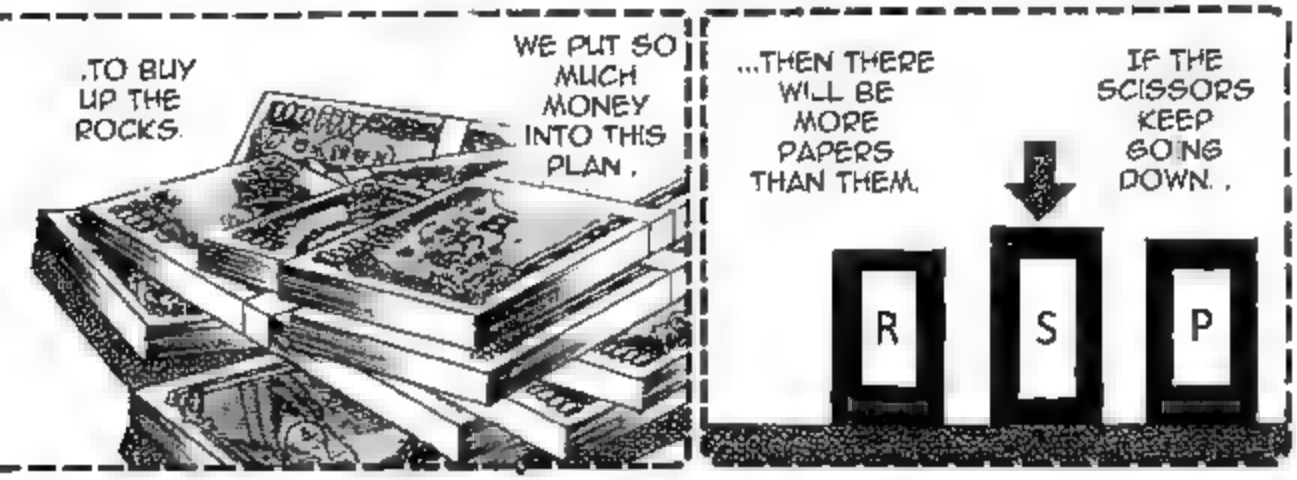


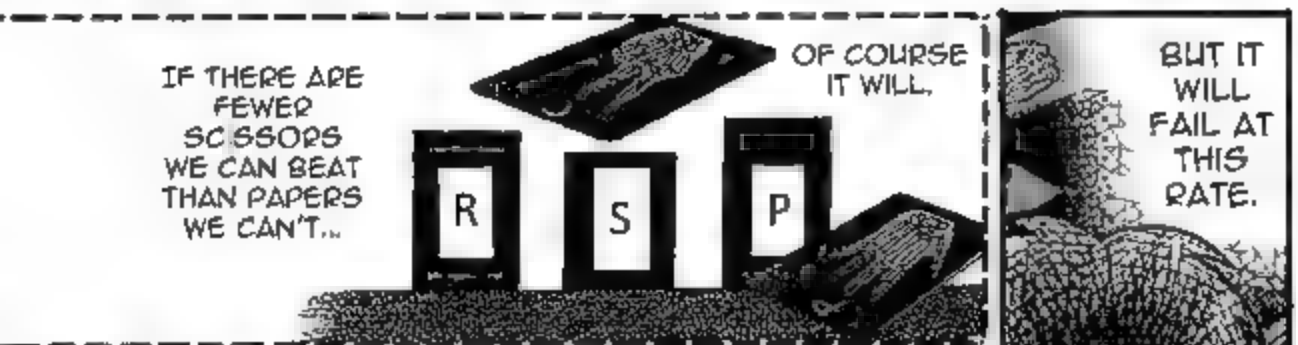
WAS DEAD ON!


HOW CAN THERE BE 102 SCISSORS !?
WHEN ANDOU REPORTED JUST BEFORE, THERE WERE 120 OF THEM.
THAT MEANS
120
.THAT THEY WENT DOWN BY 18 IN JUST 2 OR 3 MINUTES.
S
S
120
102

IMPOSSIBLE!

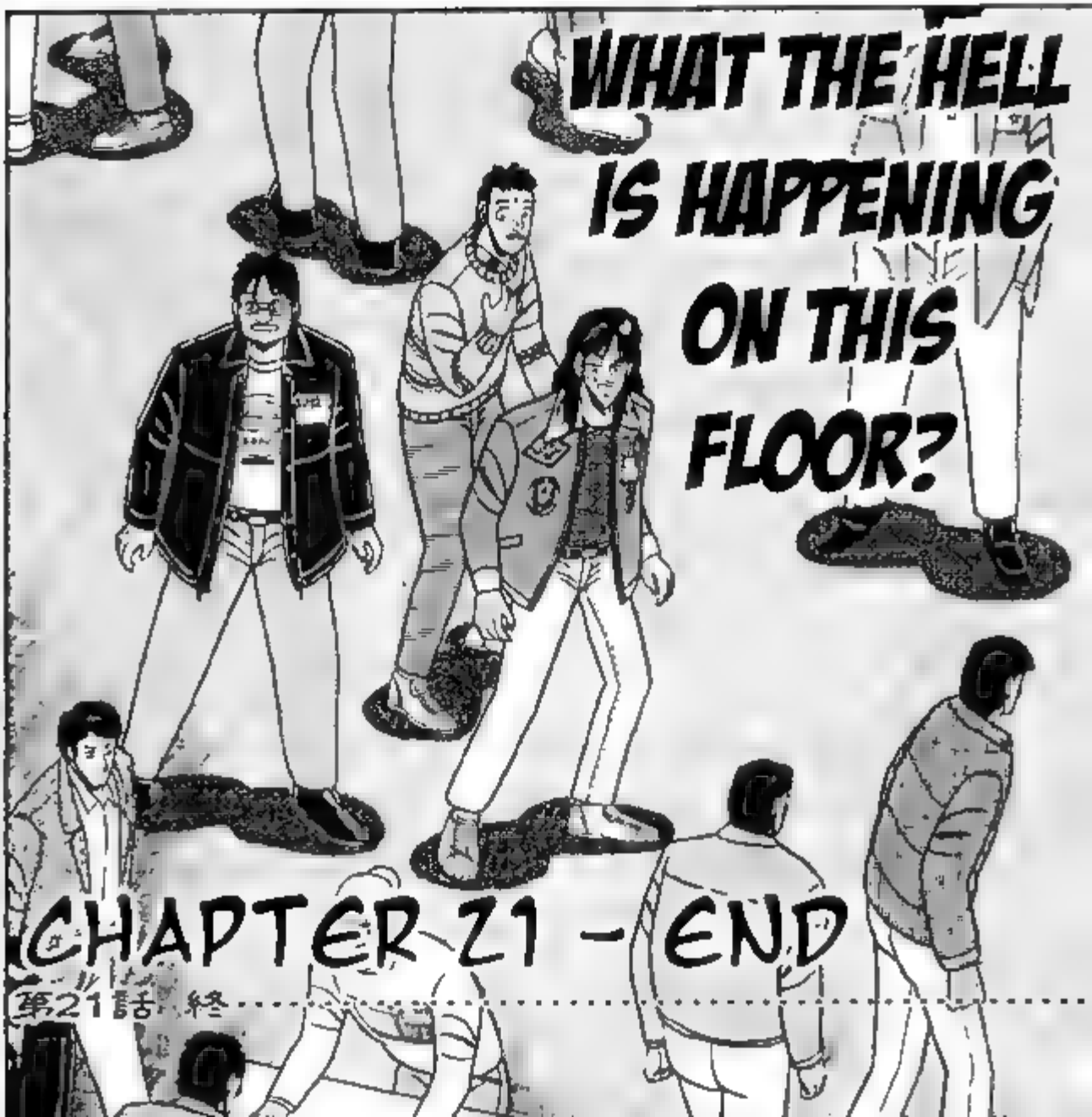
NOT GOOD ...
UGH
102
100
WHAT THE HELL?


.TO BUY UP THE ROCKS.
WE PUT SO MUCH MONEY INTO THIS PLAN.
...THEN THERE WILL BE MORE PAPERS THAN THEM.
IF THE SCISSORS KEEP GOING DOWN..
R
S
P


IF THERE ARE FEWER SCISSORS WE CAN BEAT THAN PAPERS WE CAN'T...
OF COURSE IT WILL.
R
S
P
BUT IT WILL FAIL AT THIS RATE.

102
100
98
...THEN OUR ODDS WILL NEVER BE MORE THAN 50% NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
DAMMIT!
CALM DOWN!
KAIJI-SAN!


WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING ON THIS FLOOR?
CHAPTER 21 - END
第21話 終

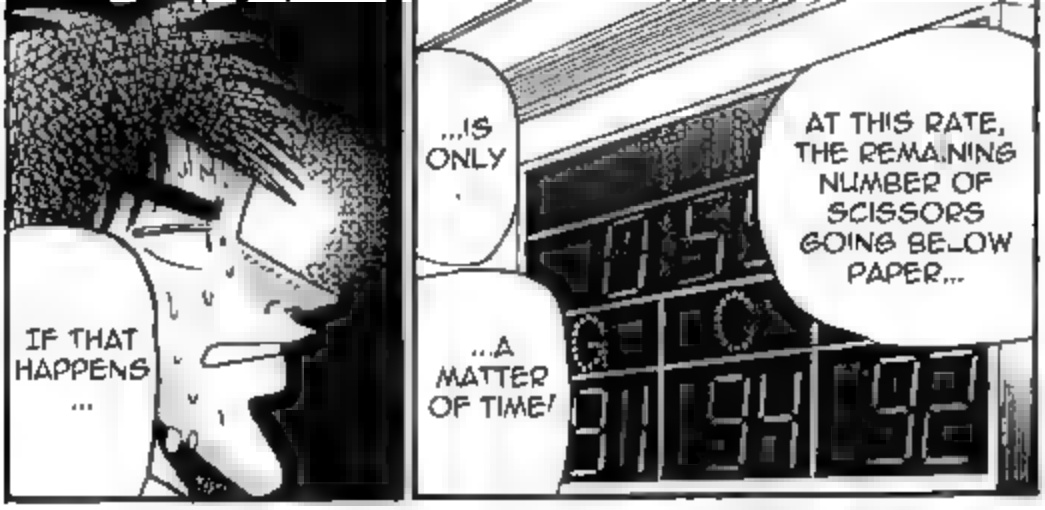
CHAPTER 22 "FAILURE"

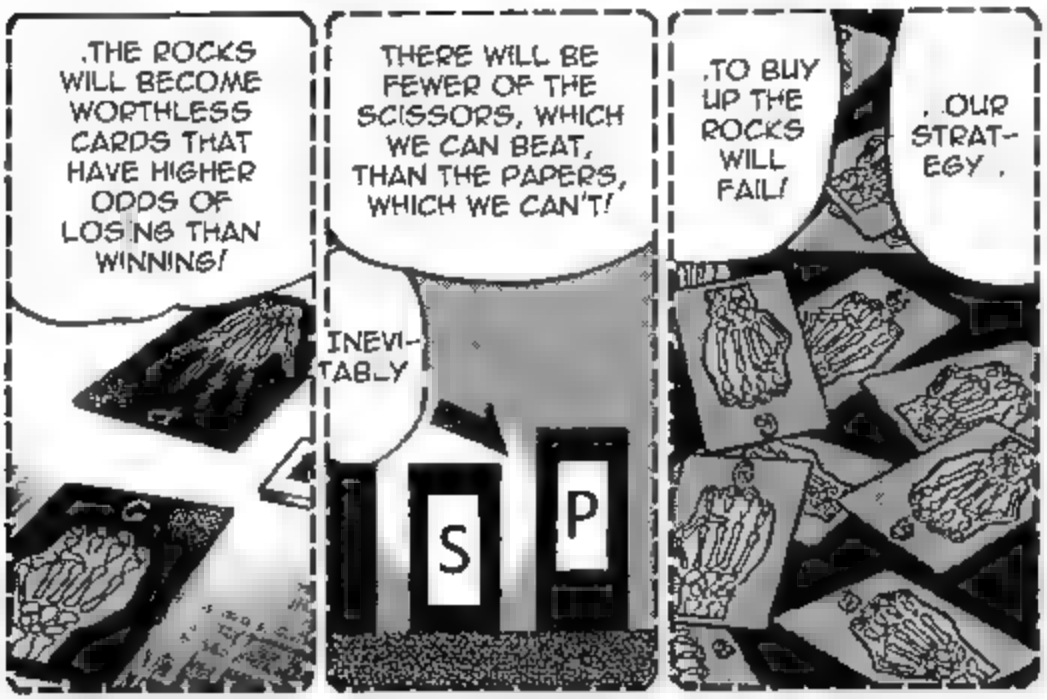
賭博黙示録

カイジ

A MAJOR CHANGE . . . IS ON THE HORI-ZON!

DAMMIT!!
WHY ARE THE SCISSORS GOING DOWN SO QUICKLY?!
WHAT IS THIS?
JUST .. PLEASE, GIVE ME A BREAK!!
GIVE ME A BREAK
STOP THESE RIDICU-LOUS TWISTS AND TURNS!!

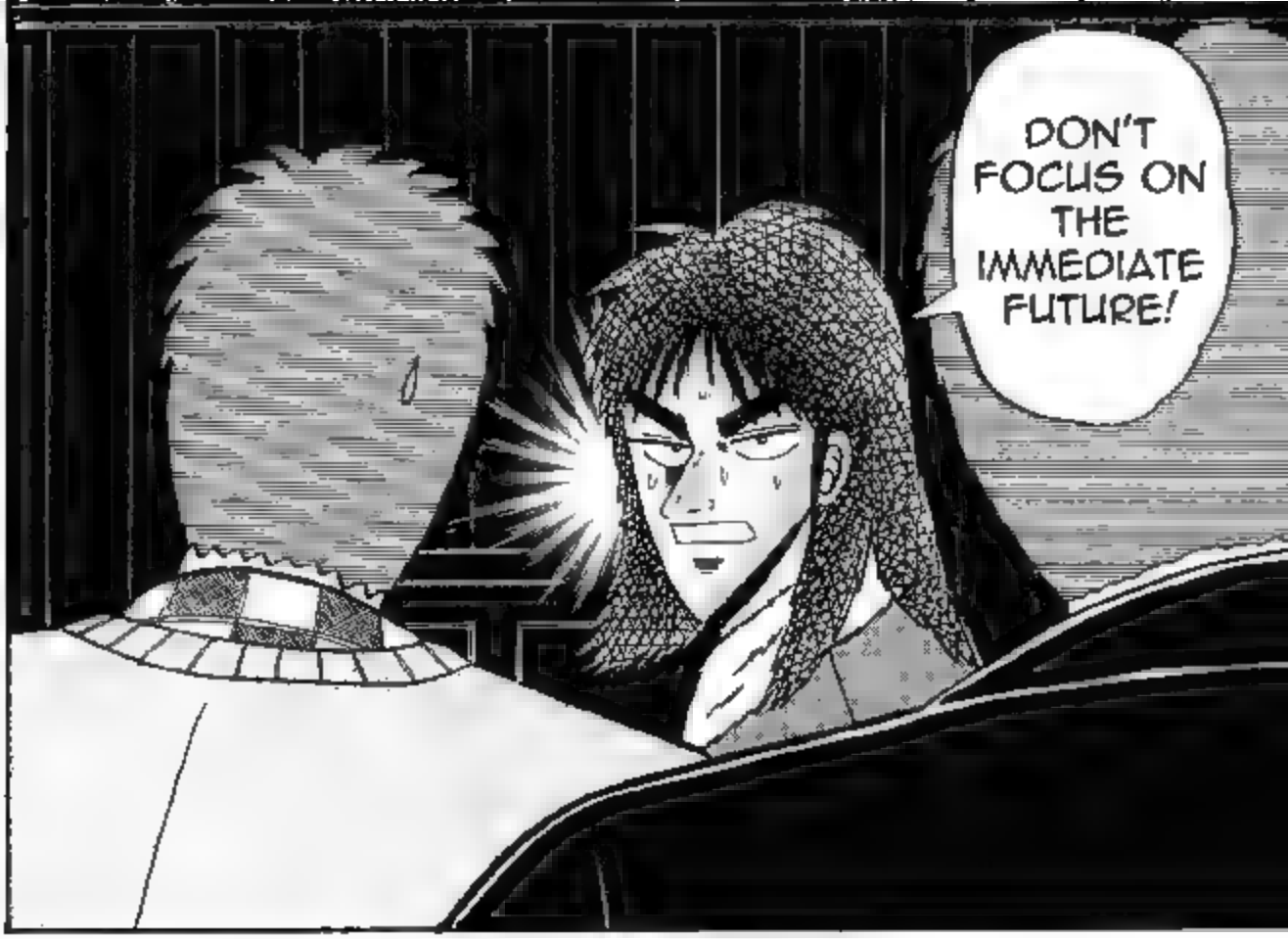



.THE ROCKS WILL BECOME WORTHLESS CARDS THAT HAVE HIGHER ODDS OF LOSING THAN WINNING!
THERE WILL BE FEWER OF THE SCISSORS, WHICH WE CAN BEAT, THAN THE PAPERS, WHICH WE CAN'T!
INEVITABLY
S
P
.TO BUY UP THE ROCKS WILL FAIL!
. OUR STRATEGY .

SCISSORS AND PAPERS ARE EQUAL!!

STOP THIS IMBALANCE!

KAIJI-SAN!
THIS IS HOPE-LESS!
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN!?
WE NEED TO GO CHAL-LENGE SOME-ONE!!
THIS IS THE LIMIT!
.....
WE NEED TO GO NOW!
WE AT LEAST STAND A CHANCE NOW..
...BEFORE THE SCIS-SORS FALL ANY FURTHER!!
S
P
RIGHT NOW, SCISSORS AND PAPER ARE THE SAME!
WE NEED TO ENDURE!!
WHILE WE'RE STANDING AROUND TALKING, THE-
WE NEED TO WAIT.
KAIJI-SAN!
NO!
HUH?


DON'T FOCUS ON THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE!

THAT DOESN'T JUST APPLY TO THIS SHIP, EITHER!
.....

ISN'T THAT WHAT LED US ALL TO FAILURE BEFORE!?
DON'T ACT ON EVERY LITTLE CHANGE!

.....
IF YOU DON'T STAY STRONG, YOU CAN'T WIN!

JUST REALIZE IT ALREADY!
IT'S BEEN THE SAME IN OUR REAL LIVES, HASN'T IT?!

BELIEVE THAT IT'S SURE TO REVERSE!!
BELIEVE THAT THIS KIND OF IMBALANCE CAN'T CONTINUE FOREVER!
...AND BELIEVE!
WE NEED TO BE PATIENT HERE...
THINK ABOUT IT LOGICALLY!
THIS ISN'T JUST MY INTUITION.
WITH FEWER SCISSORS, IT WILL BE EASIER TO USE THE PAPERS THAT WOULD LOSE TO THEM!
...AND THE SCISSORS WILL STAY THE SAME
IN FACT, THE NUMBER OF PAPERS WILL REDUCE BY QUITE A BIT ON THE REBOUND...
THAT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN!
S
P
...THE SCISSORS THAT WOULD LOSE TO THEM WILL BE HARDER TO USE.
WHICH MEANS...
THEIR USAGE WILL LEVEL OFF.
R
S
SINCE WE BOUGHT UP THE ROCKS...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SCISSORS?
.. THEIR NUMBERS WILL NOT BE GOING DOWN AS MUCH.
SINCE THE R LOSING CARD HAS DECREASED
THEY'LL DEFINITELY BE USED, NOW!
S
P
IT'S INEVITABLE!

SO THAT'S IT
I SEE
OH...
.. BUT WE MUST BELIEVE THAT THIS...
THINGS MAY BE BAD
WILL TURN AROUND!

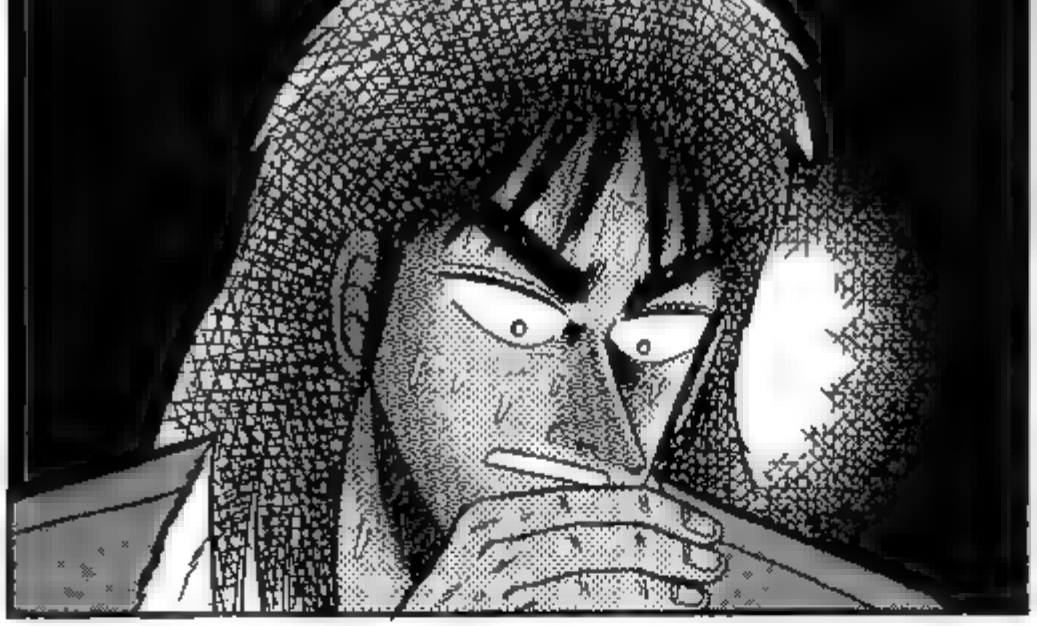
THAT'S WHY PAPER WASN'T MOVING.

OH, IT'S SOMETHING THAT HAD BEEN BOTHERING ME EVER SINCE WE STARTED BUYING UP THE CARDS.
EH?

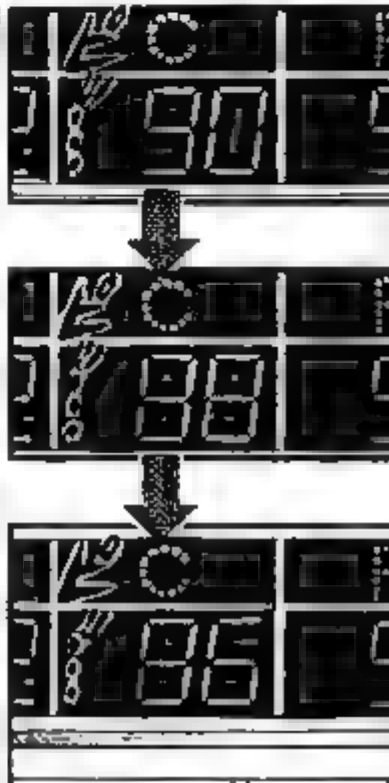
AT THE TIME, THERE WERE MORE SC.S-SORS
.WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
S
P

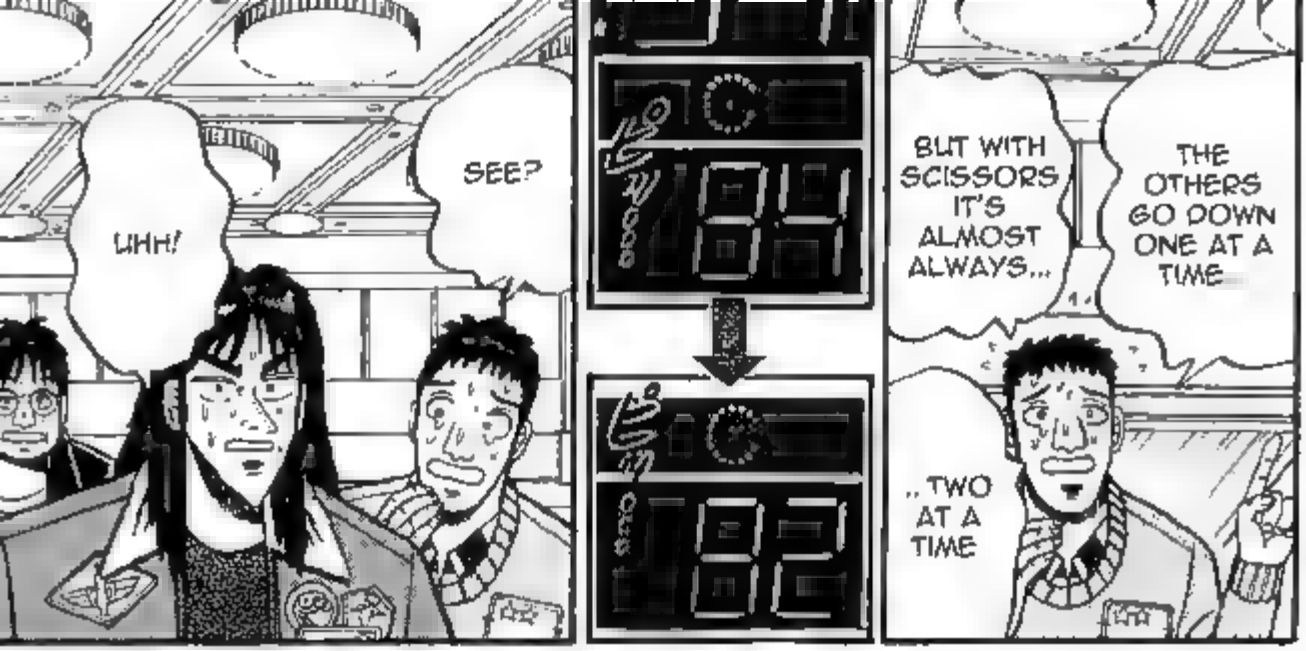
BUT
PAPER SEEMED TO BE GOING DOWN A BIT SLOWLY.

UUH ...
.....
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS, RIGHT?
.SO FEWER OF THEM WOULD BE USED.
PAPER WOULD BE HARDER TO USE.
PAPER HAD THE FEWEST USED
AND AFTER WE BOUGHT THE ROCKS ...
IT'S TRUE THAT BEFORE
?.....
YES ...
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE THIS?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
BUT HIS DESIRE FOR THEIR STRATEGY TO SUCCEED...
KAIJI HAD NOTICED THAT ODDITY DEEP DOWN IN HIS HEART.
...HAD LED HIM TO AVERT HIS GAZE FROM THAT TRUTH.
THAT WAS ITS SOURCE!
THAT WAS THE OUT OF PLACE FEELING KAIJI HAD BEEN FEELING.



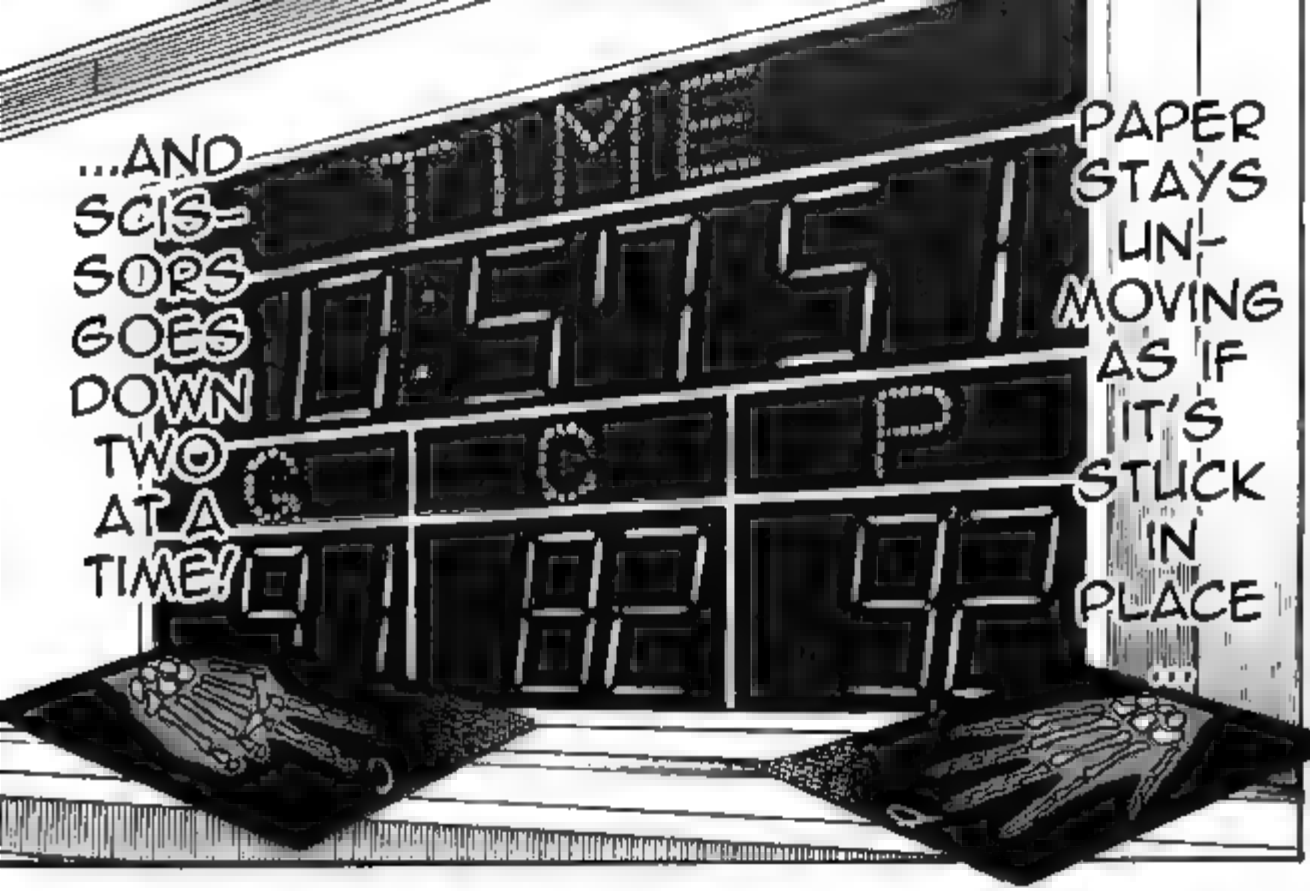
KAIJI'S DESIRE HAD BLIND-ED HIM!




UHH!
SEE?
BUT WITH SCISSORS IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS...
THE OTHERS GO DOWN ONE AT A TIME
..TWO AT A TIME

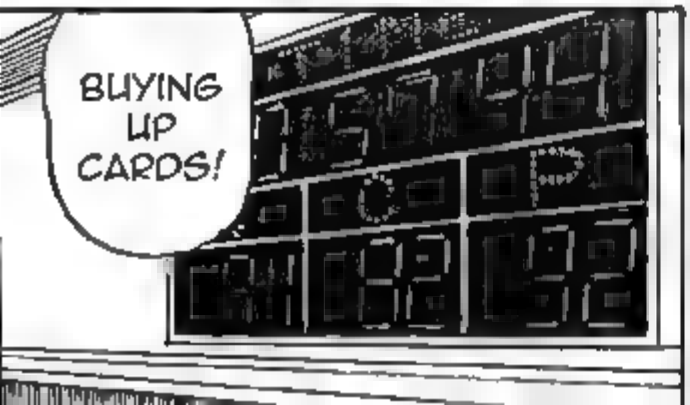
AH...!

WH-WHAT IS IT, KAIJI-SAN!?
WE'VE BEEN HAD!


...AND SCIS-SORS GOES DOWN TWO AT A TIME!
PAPER STAYS UN-MOVING AS IF IT'S STUCK IN PLACE

ONLY ONE THING!
THOSE TWO SIGNS CAN MEAN.

.....
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


BUYING UP CARDS!

WE WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES!
KAIJI-SAN.

EH?
WE'VE BEEN HAD!!

...BOUGHT UP THE PAPERS!

ごわ

ごわ

SEOUL

TRANSLATED BY JSOG
PROOFREAD BY SONICKRAZY
CLEANED BY DEAKACHU
TYPESETTING BY PENGUIN71

JUST LIKE WE BOUGHT UP THE ROCKS...

...SOME ONE ON THIS FLOOR...

THAT IS WHY THE SCISSORS ARE GOING DOWN TWO AT A TIME.

THE SC.S-SORS

THEN

IF YOU ADD IN OUR BUYING UP THE ROCKS ..

THEY'RE BE NG USED AGAINST EACH OTHER IN DRAWS!

. YOU HAVE THE SITUATION WE'RE SEEING HERE.

I CAN ONLY THINK THAT SOMEONE HAS BOUGHT THEM UP

IT'S SIMPLY UNNATURAL FOR IT TO STAY THERE LIKE THAT

NO MISTAKING IT.

THERE'S ...

IT'S BECAUSE THE PAPERS HAVE BEEN BOUGHT UP THAT THEY'RE STUCK IN PLACE AND UNMOVING.

. . . . .

I'M SURE OF IT.

EHHH?

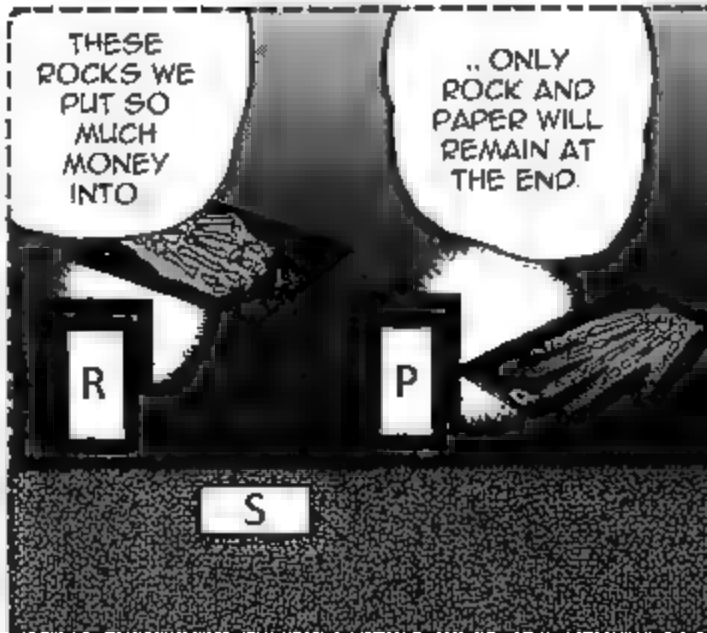
UUH

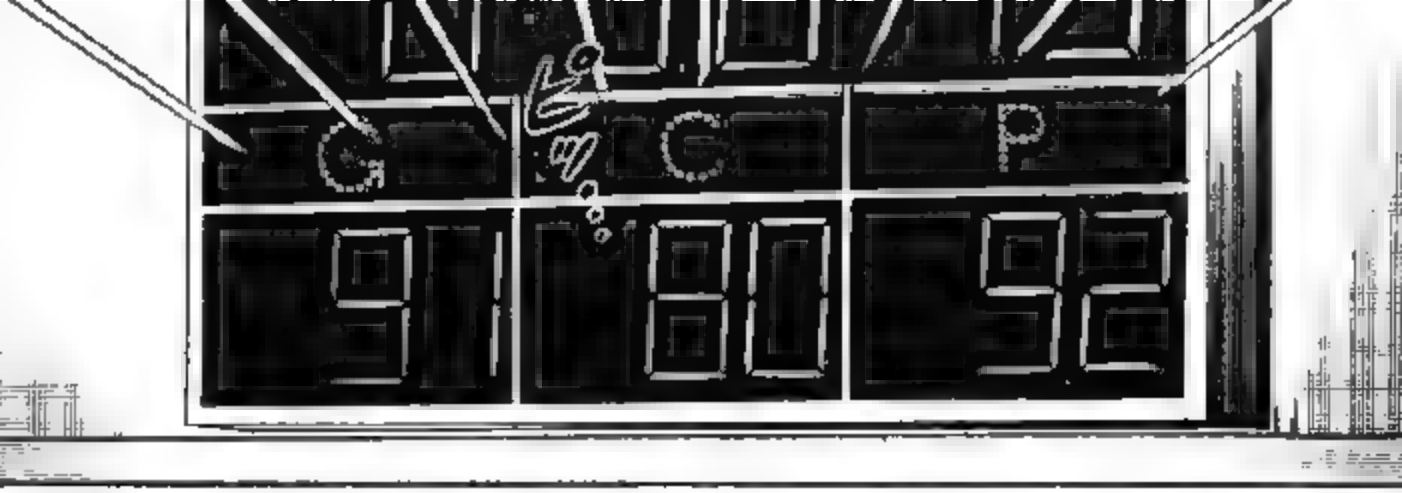
.....
TH-
THEN.
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NOW?

I'M SURE OF IT.
K. KAIJI-SAN...
I'M ABSO-LUTELY CERTAIN

PRO-GRESS LIKE THIS
IF THINGS ..

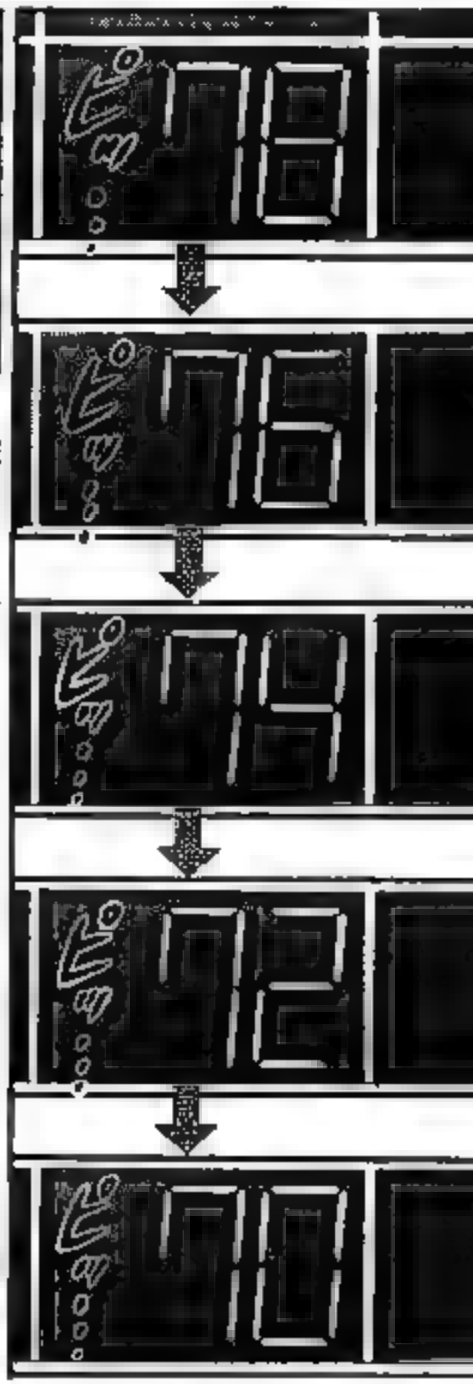
THEY WILL BE NOTHING BUT TRASH.
WILL BE THE LOSING CARD.


THESE ROCKS WE PUT SO MUCH MONEY INTO
.. ONLY ROCK AND PAPER WILL REMAIN AT THE END.
R
P
S


G
G
P
91
80
92

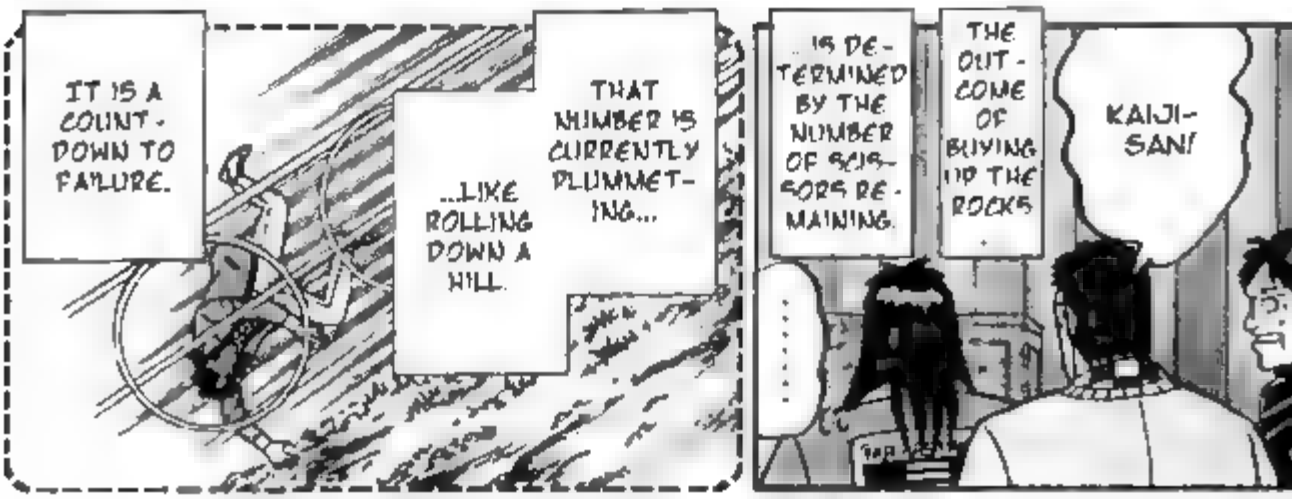
91
80
92
HUH ...
AHH ...

KAIJI-SAN!
AHHH...
ARE THE SCISSORS ARE GOING TO DISAPPEAR, KAIJI-SAN?



NO, THERE ISN'T
IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO!?

THIS WAS AN UTTER FAILURE


IT IS A COUNT-DOWN TO FAILURE.
...LIKE ROLLING DOWN A HILL.
THAT NUMBER IS CURRENTLY PLUMMETING...
...IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF SCISSORS REMAINING.
THE OUTCOME OF BUYING UP THE ROCKS
KAIJI-SAN!

HE CANNOT STOP THE PRICE FROM COLLAPSING.
HE CAN ONLY WATCH ON
BUT THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO.
HE MUST STOP IT
HE WANTS TO STOP IT SOMEHOW
THE PATH LEADS TO DEATH.

BLOOD IS FLOWING FROM A WOUND.
BEFORE LONG...
...IT WILL REACH A LETHAL AMOUNT.

...AND HE HAS NO WAY TO STOP THE BLEEDING!

KAIJI-SAN!
THIS WAS A FEAR...
...KAIJI HAD NEVER BEFORE FELT.
FALL-ING..
...AND FALL-ING..
IT WAS A FEELING OF FALLING...
...WITHOUT END.

CHAPTER 22 - END
第22話 終

AN UNSTOPPABLE FALL!

CHAPTER 23
"UTTER DEFEAT"

AHH
...
UUH!
UHH
KH.
UUHH..
IT'S ALL OVER.
UUH
. . . . . .
THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE.
EH?
LET'S GO.

SO NEITHER IS BEING USED ON THE FLOOR.
THE ROCKS AND PAPERS HAVE BEEN BOUGHT UP
ISN'T IT OBVI-OUS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

...WE CAN WIN WITH OUR ROCKS RIGHT NOW!
THAT MEANS
WE CAN KILL THOSE SCISSORS
...AND SCISSORS ARE THE ONLY ONES GOING DOWN
THAT IS WHY SCISSORS ARE BEING USED AGAINST EACH OTHER.

A CHANCE?

THIS GREAT FALL ISN'T WHEN WE ARE TRULY IN TROUBLE

WE HAVE A CHANCE AS LONG THE SCISSORS ARE BEING USED

THAT WOULD BE THE TIME AFTER THE FALL WHEN THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN

EH ..

IF THIS ISN'T A CHANCE, THEN WHAT IS IT?

OF COURSE.

...THEN ROCK WILL TRULY BE A WORTHLESS CARD.

...AND THE SITUATION SETTLES INTO AN UNMOVING LULL. .

ONCE THE VALUE OF THE SCISSORS HAS GONE DOWN FAR ENOUGH...

R

S

P

.....

DON'T YOU AGREE?

.. BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO MOVE, IT HAS TO BE NOW.

. CAN HARDLY BE SAID TO BE THE BEST...

THE CURRENT SITUATION ..

FURUHATA-SAN.

WE WILL LOSE OUR OPPORTUNITY

JUST STANDING HERE AND WATCHING IS THE WORST OPTION.

UUH ...
AH ...
FURU-HATA!
I'M GOING!
AHH ...
KAIJI HAD ...
...NO WAY TO STOP THEM.
ANDOU!
I AM TOO!

ざわ・ざわ

TRANSLATED BY JSO6
CLEANED BY DEAKUCHU
TYPESET BY PENGUIN71

.....

HE COULD ONLY WATCH THEM LEAVE!

...HIS ROCKS ... WOULD FOR-EVER LOSE VALUE.

IF HE LOST THAT CHANCE ...

...IT MAY HAVE BEEN TRUE THAT IT HAD TO BE WHILE SOME SCISSORS WERE LEFT.

IF HE WAS TO WIN WITH THOSE ROCKS...

FURUHATA MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN RIGHT.

AFTER ALL...

.....

HE COULD ONLY WATCH.

BUT...WAIT!

...UNCON-TROLLABLY FILLED KAIJI'S HEART

.....

THAT CALL FOR IMME-DIATE ACTION ...

IT WAS THE TRUTH

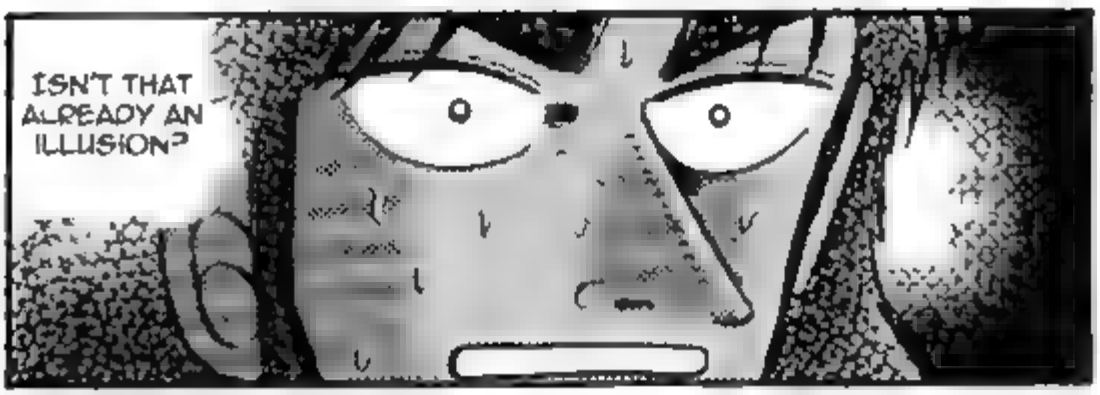
THOSE ROCKS WOULD ONLY HAVE VALUE ... ... RIGHT THEN.

THAT MEANT ...

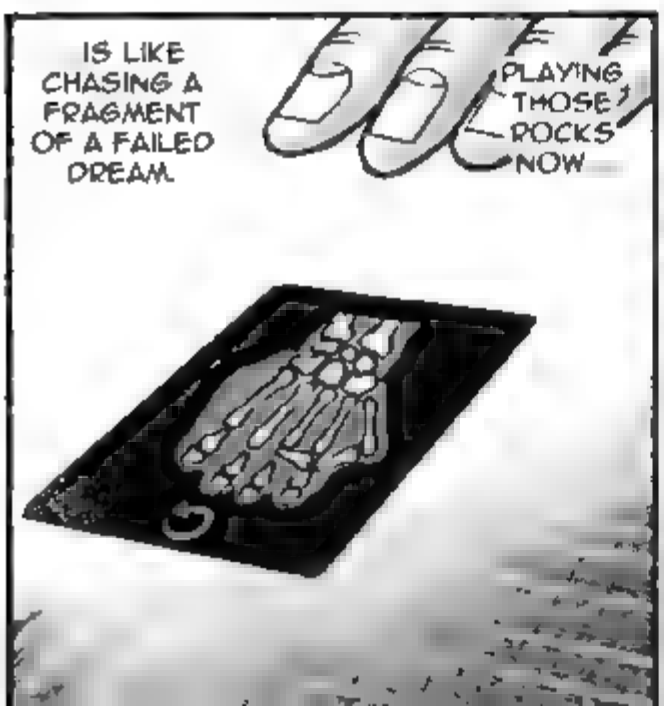
...BUT HE NOW KNEW THEY WOULD NOT

THAT WOULD NOT HAPPEN.

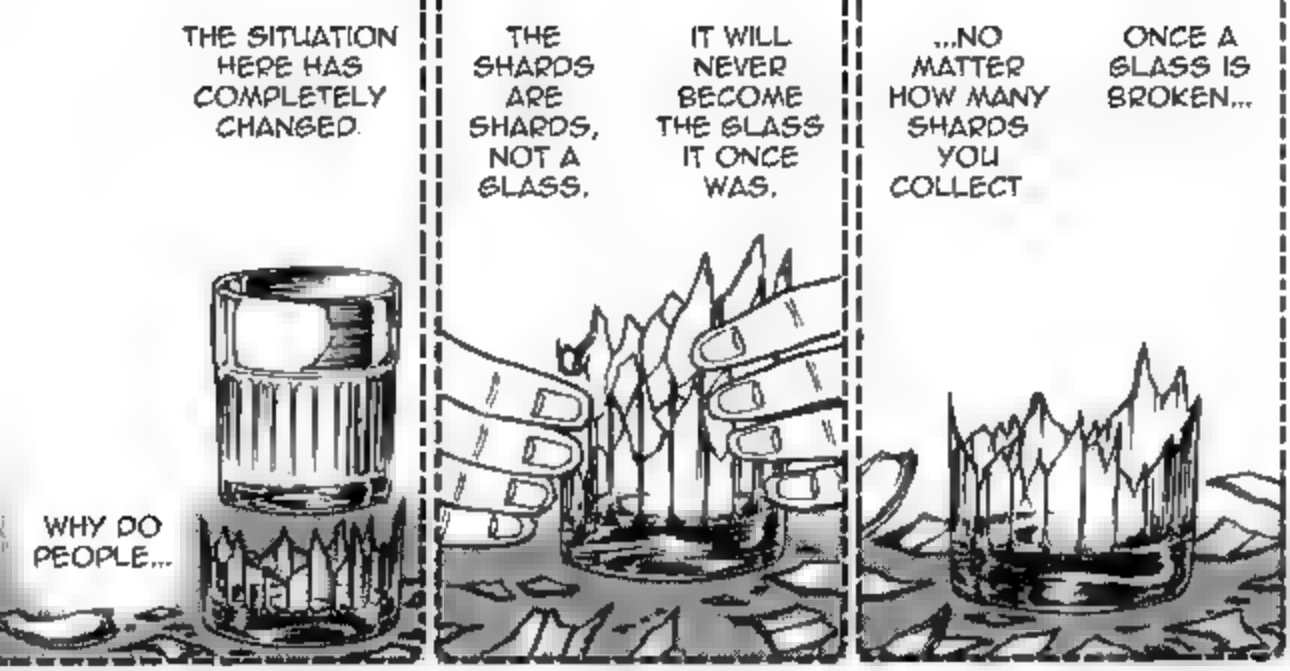
AT FIRST, HE HAD THOUGHT THINGS WOULD TURN AROUND...


ISN'T THAT ALREADY AN ILLUSION?

STOP!

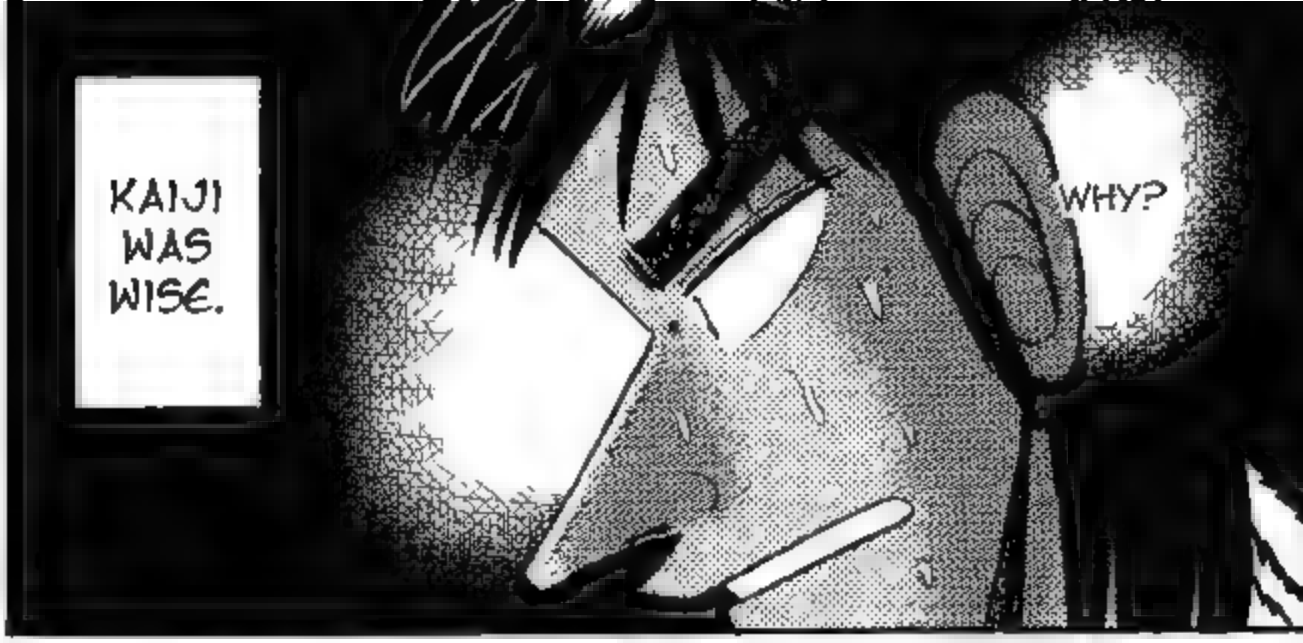

IS LIKE CHASING A FRAGMENT OF A FAILED DREAM.
PLAYING THOSE ROCKS NOW

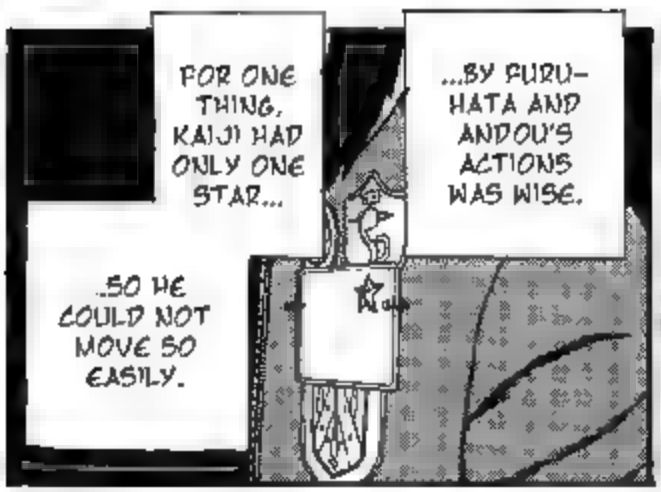
OUR BUYING UP OF THE ROCKS FAILED.


THE SITUATION HERE HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED.
THE SHARDS ARE SHARDS, NOT A GLASS.
IT WILL NEVER BECOME THE GLASS IT ONCE WAS.
...NO MATTER HOW MANY SHARDS YOU COLLECT
ONCE A GLASS IS BROKEN...
WHY DO PEOPLE...

AND YET WE CANNOT LET GO OF IT
WE HAVE VAGUELY REALIZED IT IS A FLAWED, OUT-DATED, PIECE-OF-JUNK PLAN.
THIS STRATEGY NO LONGER MATCHES THE SITUATION
INSIST ON STICKING WITH A STRATEGY ONCE THEY HAVE DECIDED ON IT.

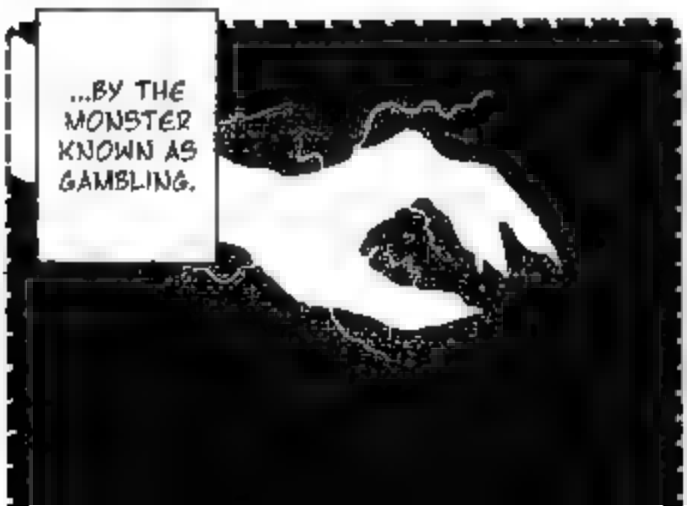
...AND WE CANNOT STOP OUR-SELVES ...
MANIA...
WE ARE OVERCOME BY A


KAIJI WAS WISE.
WHY?


FOR ONE THING, KAIJI HAD ONLY ONE STAR...
...BY FURU-HATA AND ANDOU'S ACTIONS WAS WISE.
..SO HE COULD NOT MOVE SO EASILY.

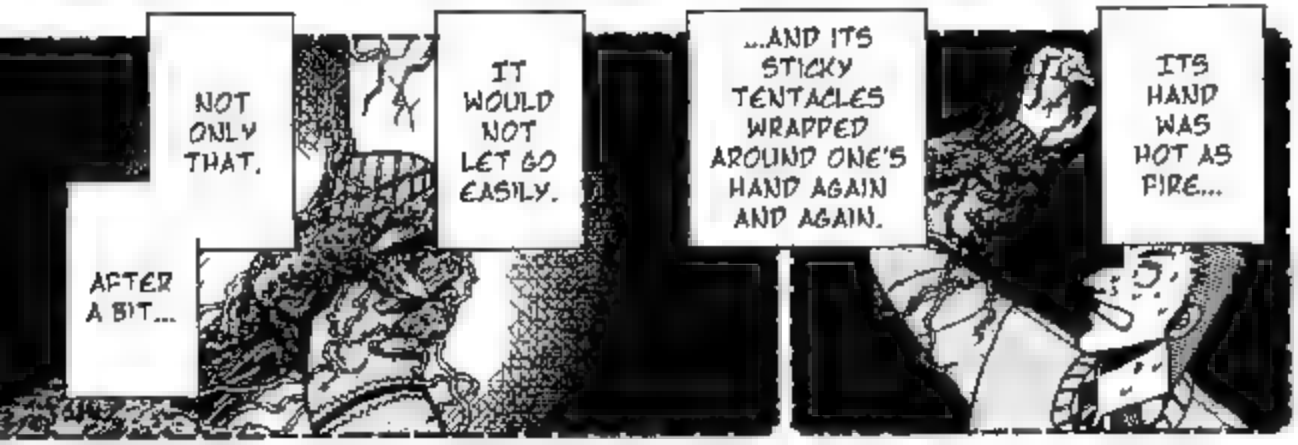
LIGHTLY TURNING AWAY WHEN DRAWN IN...
AT THAT TIME, KAIJI WAS WISE.

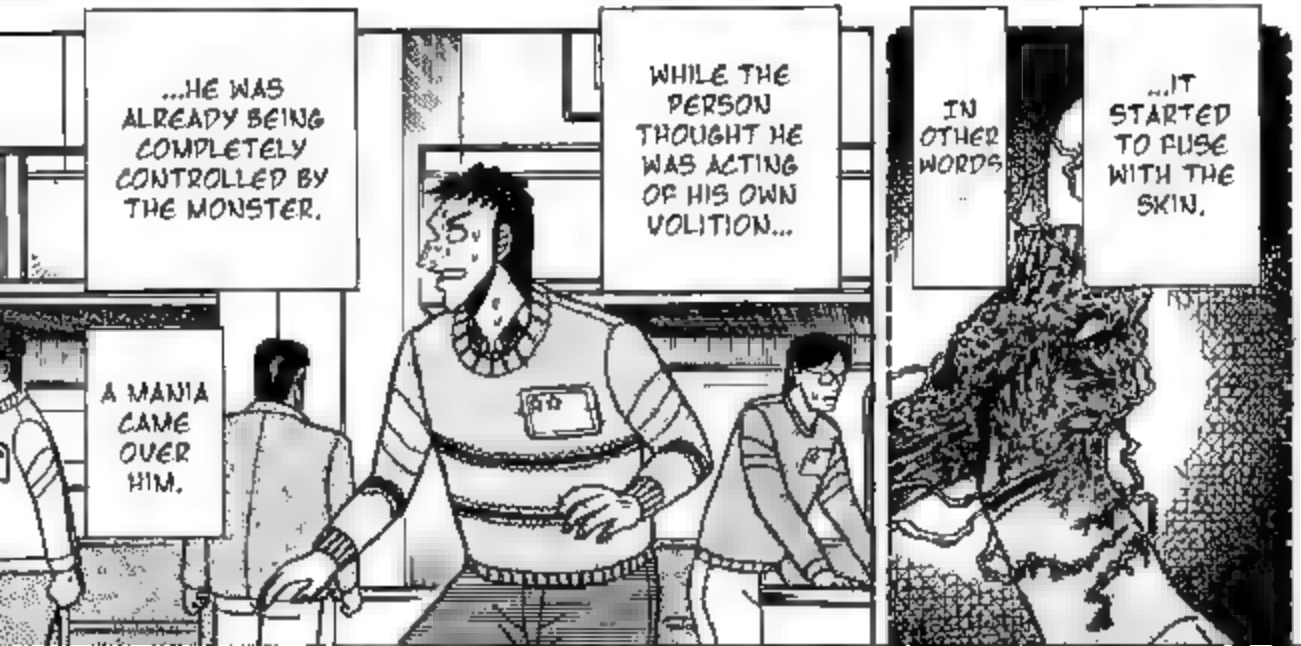
THEY HAD BEEN CAUGHT ...
BUT FURU-HATA AND ANDOU HAD NOT SHAKEN IT OFF.


...BY THE MONSTER KNOWN AS GAMBLING.

HE BARELY MANAGED TO SHAKE OFF THE HAND OF THE MONSTER...
BUT IN ANY CASE, HE MAN-AGED TO STOP HIMSELF.
... TEMPTING HIM TO DESTRUC-TION WITHIN HIS HEART.

...HAD GRABBED ON!
ITS STICKY TENTACLES...


NOT ONLY THAT.
AFTER A BIT...
IT WOULD NOT LET GO EASILY.
...AND ITS STICKY TENTACLES WRAPPED AROUND ONE'S HAND AGAIN AND AGAIN.
ITS HAND WAS HOT AS FIRE...

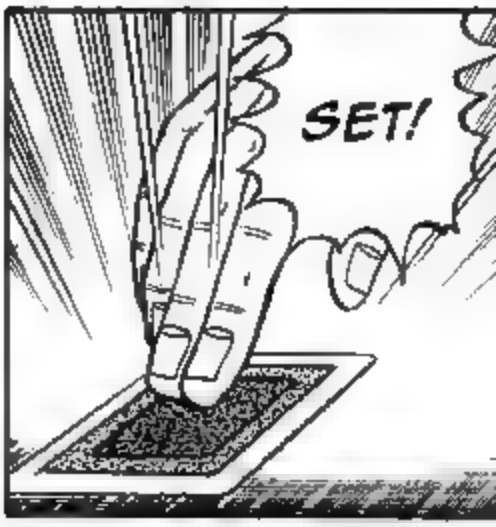

...HE WAS ALREADY BEING COMPLETELY CONTROLLED BY THE MONSTER.
A MANIA CAME OVER HIM.
WHILE THE PERSON THOUGHT HE WAS ACTING OF HIS OWN VOLITION...
IN OTHER WORDS...
...IT STARTED TO FUSE WITH THE SKIN.

...FURUHATA AND ANDOU TOWARDS A MATCH
NO CALM WAS LEFT TO THEIR THOUGHTS.
THAT "SOMETHING" URGED AND PRESSED...
HE RAN TOWARD DESTRUC-TION.

THEY COULD NOT BEAR THE REGRET FOR THE TIME AND MONEY THEY HAD PUT INTO THAT STRATEGY.
FURUHATA AND ANDOU COULD NOT BEAR THE REGRET

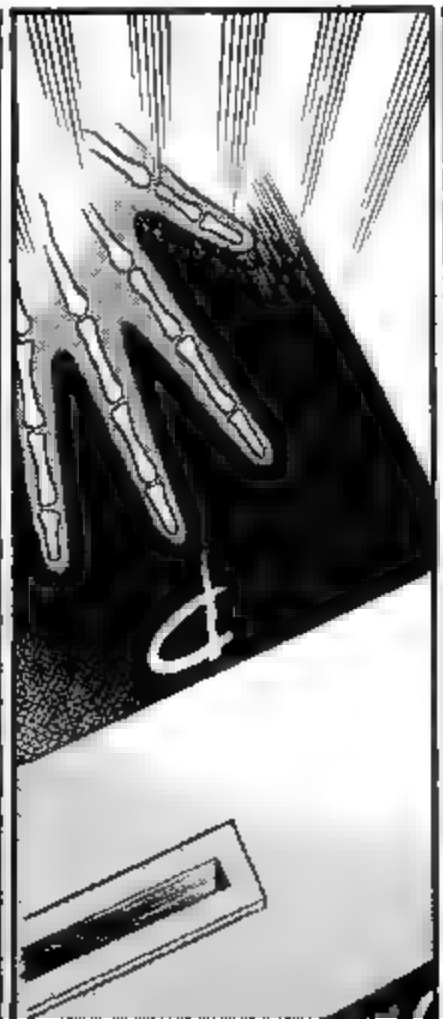
AND LATCHED ON!

PLEASE!



AT LEAST LET ME WIN WITH THIS ROCK!

HEH
HEH
HEH
...

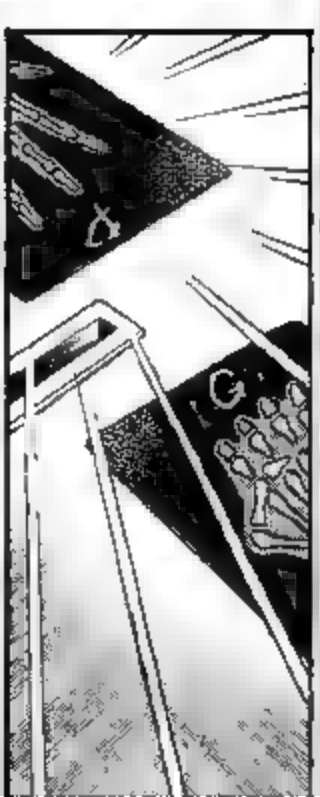

UUH
...

WHY PAPER, NOW OF ALL TIMES!?
YES!

TOO BAD, FATTY
HEH HEH HEH.

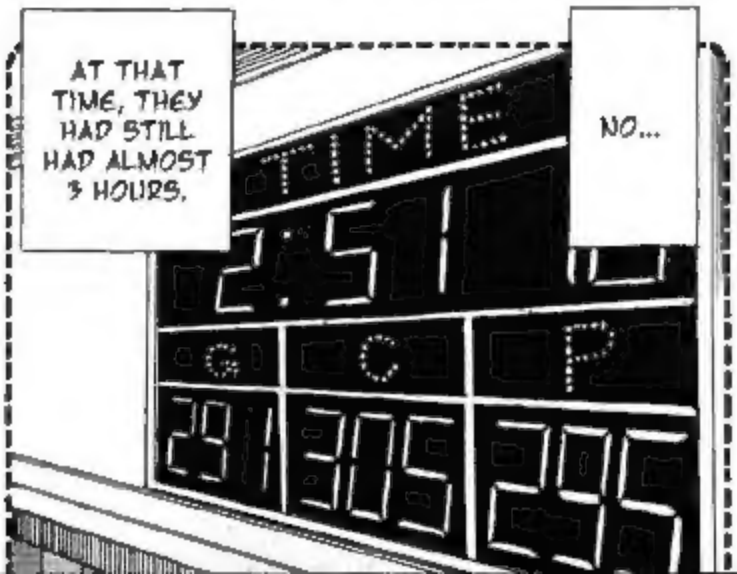
IN THE END ...

FURU-HATA AND ANDOU...
...WERE BOTH BEATEN.



SEOUL

THEY WERE BACK TO 3 STARS!



THEY HAD LESS THAN AN HOUR LEFT.
BUT NOW THINGS WERE DIFFER-ENT.
TIME
...BUT IT WAS NOT AN IMME-DIATE DESPAIR.
THEY HAD DE-SPAIRED ...
IT WAS DESPAIR WITH SOME BREATH-ING ROOM.
THEY HAD BEEN THRUST INTO DESPAIR.
THEY HAD NO MORE BREATHING ROOM.
IS FIGHT-ING AT RANDOM...
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO STRATEGIZE.
THAT WAS IT.
THE ONLY THING THEY HAD TO SPARE WERE CARDS...AND THEY HAD MORE ROCKS THAN THEY WANTED.
HEH HEH HEH.
...AND HOPING FOR 6 STARS OUR ONLY REMAINING OPTION?
DAMMIT.
FAR
AIR

ARE YOU THE CLEVER MASTERMIND?
?
HEH HEH.
...DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
SO...
YOU DO HAVE THE LOOK OF SOMEONE WITH SOME BRAINS.
YES.
...WHO WE ARE?
CHAPTER 23 - END
第23話 終

あなたは、この本を読んで、どんな感想をおもちになりましたか。

編集部では、この本についての読者のみなさまのご意見をおまちしています。

このつぎには、どんな作家のどんな漫画を読みたいと、お考えですか。「ヤンマガKC」にしてほしいと思う作品がありましたら、「読後の感想」とあわせて、左記あてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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